

# CAMPFIRE TALES OF IDAHO



Volume IV

By  
Louis J. Clements

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CAMPFIRE TALES OF IDAHO

VOLUME IV

By

Louis J. Clements

Upper Snake River Valley  
Historical Society

January, 1992  
P. O. Box 244  
Rexburg, Idaho 83440



## INTRODUCTION

Gathering this information on Eastern Idaho has been an exciting project for me. There is such a vast collection of material and pictures in the library of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society in the Teton Flood Museum that it was hard at times trying to decide which articles I wanted to include in this volume of Tales. These publications, Campfire Tales, of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society are meant to share as much of this information as possible rather than just have it stored in the files of the library.

I regret that the names of some of the contributors were not accessible to give them the credit that is so richly deserved for the work they did in gathering the histories. These people are the ones who have preserved the valley history so that we could all enjoy it. Sometimes it was hard to figure out who should have the credit for the information and I apologize for any error in identification. The following people had names directly connected to information that has been turned in on a manuscript to the historical society and I would recognize them here for their contribution to the heritage of the valley.

W. J. N. Adams	Lela Hanks Morris
Katie Call	Vernessa Nagle
Charles Davenport	Pearl M. Oberg
Carrie Davis	Carolyn Powell
Eddie Divine	Raymond H. Ramsey
Helen C. Ferney	Lizzie Remington
Albert Grover	Martha Remington
Hortense Hanson	Dr. Blair Rich
Leonard Hochstein	Gene Shumate
Idaho Transportation Dept.	T. Leonard Smith
Florence Miller	Mal Spooner
Hanalorraine Miskin	





One of the by-products of writing and editing a collection of stories is the desire that is produced to visit and see what you have been writing about. I hope that you will also share this desire as you read the stories that are reproduced here. I have gone to several of them to take recent pictures and am going to visit the rest as soon as the winter will allow a proper look. One of the best times in historical work is when you can visit a historical site and while viewing it place yourself in the position of the mountain man, pioneer, calvary, or other to see if you can observe what they did. Over the years this has been one of the most profitable parts of history for me.

We have a fantastic country and as its history is revealed it becomes more so. The pioneers who made up the growth of the valley lived a harsh life but persevered so that the area became settled and then grew to what it is today. Since most of our history happened in the past one hundred years much of the physical evidence of the early pioneers is still here much to the delight of one who wants to visit a historical site.

I would encourage all of you to write your story down while it is still a part of your memory. We meet constantly people who say they are not sure about an event or place and there are many sites that still need to be identified. There are many individuals who are working on gathering this information but we need more. We have historical groups throughout the valley who are dedicated to making sure that the information is preserved but there is so much to do. If you don't want to write, place your information on a tape so that it can be preserved. It is a simple thing to talk onto a tape and the history can be transcribed at a later time.

Special thanks go to my daughter, Kim, who proof read most of the pages so that I could keep typing. Also thanks go to Gay Nell Curtis for the work she does in copying and assembling the books. Thanks go to Bonnie Curtis for her help in gathering the documents.

I would thank again all those who are engaged in the active pursuit of preserving history. You are appreciated. I attend state conventions on history and hear constantly of this one or that one who has gathered stories so that they won't be lost. Thanks for all your hard work.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,

Louis J. Clements,  
December, 1991





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## CHAPTER 1

### ANDREW SMITH ANDERSON - PIONEER ENGINEER

Andrew Alexander Anderson was the son of Norwegian parents, Andrew and Hannah Jacobsen Anderson. He was born March 4, 1933, in the state of New York, Orleans County. Soon after, he travelled with his parents to the Fox River country in Illinois. There he grew up and went to school with other Norwegian children.

When Andrew was sixteen years old, his parents joined Ezra Benson's Utah bound Norwegian Company. The entire Anderson family reached Utah in 1849 and settled in Lehi.

When Andrew was still a young man he went with his brothers to California. Enroute to California they stopped in Nevada and built the first log cabin constructed by white men in that state. Then the brothers went on to California where they had many adventures with indians and other gold miners. They found gold but were driven off by ruthless gold miners. Then when the Church called all men back to Utah, they returned.

Andrew A. Anderson was very active in the community in Utah. He helped in defending the Saints against Johnson's army. He was active in politics and was instrumental in getting women the right to vote in Utah. In 1859, he was ordained to the office of a Seventy in Smithfield, Utah.

In 1884, Andrew moved to Idaho. He obtained some property in the Rexburg area and there in 1884, he and his son, Andrew Smith Anderson, built the log house which still stands as a monument to pioneer work and dedication. In Rexburg ten acre blocks were divided into four two and one-half acre lots throughout the town.

The house was originally built facing east in the quarter block of First North and First West. The house had a dirt roof and a rock foundation. The walls were lined with factory (a material similar to cheese cloth.) The floors were wooden but in the living room a carpet was laid in the following manner. They put straw over the floor, sewed strips of old clothing together, and wove these strips into carpeting. The kitchen was on the north side of the house with a cellar built on to it.

There was rich soil and a bountiful supply of water to spur the efforts of pioneers in the Rexburg area. City lots in the town were five dollars at that time. This was the cost of surveying.

Andrew Smith Anderson was one of the children of the above union. He was an engineer and surveyor and in this profession left evidence of his work all over the West.





Andrew worked his way through what is now the University of Utah and graduated as a civil and mining engineer. During vacations he worked on location for the building of the Oregon Short Line Railroad between Granger, Wyoming, and Huntington, Oregon. He was one of the engineers in charge of the location parties. After he graduated he was one of the engineers in charge of construction.

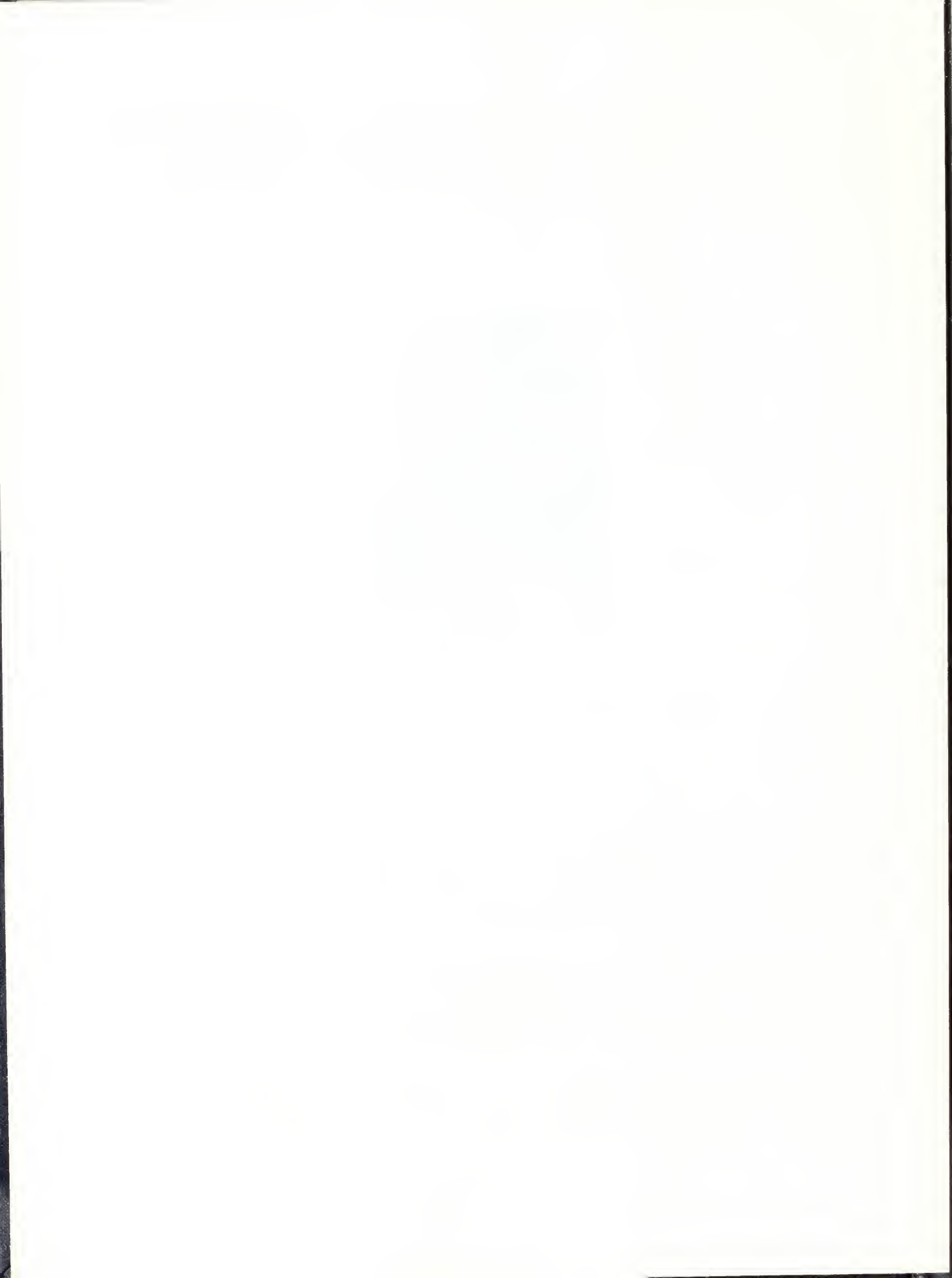


Andrew Smith Anderson with 1910 transit

Andrew surveyed many of the townsites of Eastern Idaho. While at this work he became acquainted with the Poole family. The father, John Poole, had a tie contract for use on the new railroad between Pocatello and Butte, Montana. John and Jane Bitten Poole had five daughters of which the oldest, Emily Cordelia, caught the eye of Andrew. They were married January 3, 1884, in Salt Lake City.

Andrew and Emily lived at Menan, Idaho. However Andrew was away from home a great deal of the time because he was surveying irrigation canals and railroads. It was his desire to acquire some raw land, get irrigation water onto it, put it into cultivation, and then sell it. Then he would repeat the process elsewhere.

He made the preliminary location survey of the railroad from Idaho Falls to Yellowstone National Park. Years later the railroad was built and followed the route he had selected. Still later he located a spur line running northeast from Menan.



In 1895 Andrew was a member of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Utah. He was leader of the group that supported the idea of women's suffrage, and he made the principal speech in its support. He was an excellent public speaker and usually committed his speeches to memory so that he did not have to use notes.

He was the Fremont County surveyor a number of times and was once elected by write-in. His salary was \$100 per year. He was one of the first, if not the first, surveyor general of the State of Idaho. He was registrar and recorder in charge of the land office at Blackfoot, Idaho.

He was active in politics and was Chairman of the Republican Party for this area of Eastern Idaho. Later he was chairman for Fremont County, which then covered an area now contained in several counties. He was the first county treasurer. He was elected to membership in the Idaho Legislature.

He built a canal about twenty miles long to irrigate Long Island, lying between the two main channels of the Snake River. The canal water power was used to operate a mill at Menan that he had built. Steam power was used in the wintertime to power the mill. While Andrew was in the State Legislature the mill burned down. It happened at a time when the warehouse section of the mill was full of flour, bran, and mill products. The elevator was full of wheat. He had little or no insurance and the fire broke him financially but he eventually paid off everyone who had grain in the elevator.

As a public surveyor he staked such townsites in Eastern Idaho as Rexburg, St. Anthony, Menan, Lewisville, and LaBell. He had several contracts in the public domain with subdividing and establishing the section corners for the US Government Land Office. These contracts included eleven townships in the Bear Lake area of Southeastern Idaho in 1909 and seven townships in the extra rugged area of the Seven Devils Mountains and the Snake River Canyon.

He surveyed and had charge of construction of canals in Idaho Falls, Rexburg, St. Anthony, and other areas. He was hired by the Woods Livestock Co. of Spencer, Idaho, to build canals. He made preliminary studies and reports on what are now the Island Park Project, the Palisades Project, the Mud Lake Project, and the Long Lake Project. He was one of the first group to study and report on what is now the world's greatest dam and irrigation project, the Grand Coulee in Washington.

He made mining surveys in the Spring and Thunder Mountain areas of Idaho, in the Lost River Mountains, and inspected some claims in the vicinity of Challis and Salmon.

Emily died in 1915 and was buried in Rexburg. Andrew lived fourteen years longer and had located and was in the process of perfecting title to several mining properties of his when he was killed. He was struck by a Mexican driving a Ford. The death occurred in El Paso, Texas. His body was brought back and buried near Emily's in Rexburg.



## GROUSE, IDAHO STORIES

The following three stories were told by Florence Miller, a resident of Grouse. Grouse is about thirty miles from Arco and twenty-eight miles from Mackay.

### The Mysterious Stranger

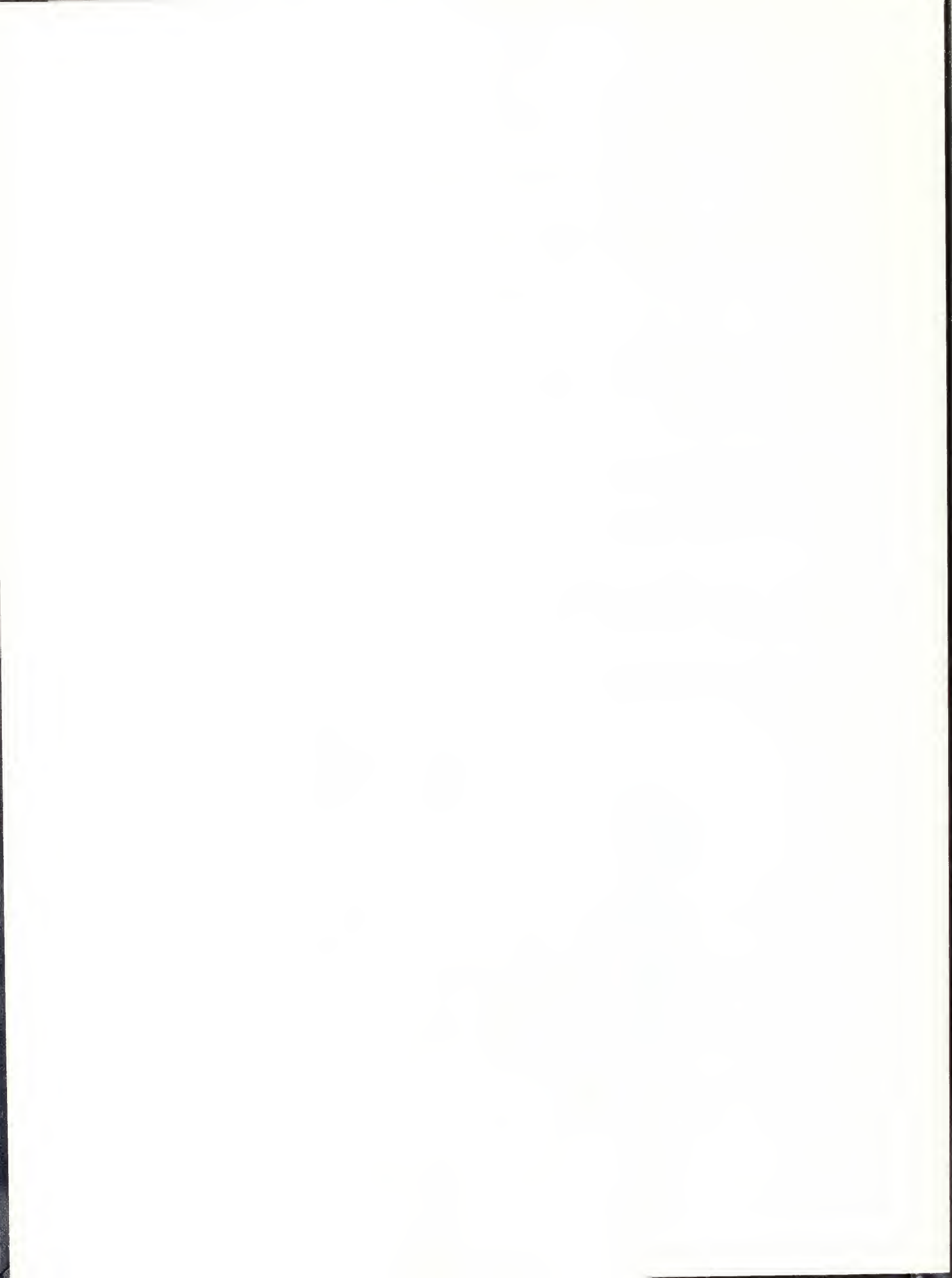
The story happened on a dark, rainy night at Grouse, Idaho, in September of 1907. Robert Miller lived on an isolated ranch. He had gone to a Masonic meeting of the Mackay Lodge some thirty miles away and was to be gone overnight. The wife and five children were in bed for the night.

Suddenly there was a pounding of horse hoofs interrupting the peace of the evening. Outside a blizzard had been raging but the sound came above the storm. Footsteps sounded ominously followed by an urgent hammering at the door. The family wondered at who could be out on such a bad night.

Florence, the wife, opened the door and saw framed in the doorway a Black man. Blacks were almost unheard of in this part of the country. He asked for a night's lodging or at least bedding so he could bunk in the barn or an outbuilding.

She declined bedding or admittance saying that all the beds were full and they had no extra bedding. He thanked her and left chuckling. The story should have ended there but it did not.







Several weeks later some drovers found a pitiful sight. A horse nearly dead from insect bites was found. The saddle had been ripped from his back and the cantle was broken. Even the cinch was frayed. The bridle was partially gone with only a bit and a strap remaining. This had caught in such a way that the horse could not eat grass or drink water. His ribs stuck out pitifully and his hoofs were in an indescribable condition. They put the animal out of his misery and rode on.

A year passed and then two employees of the Leadbelt Mine discovered a badly decomposed body that had been dug up by badgers. They found a strip of skin on his back and decided that he was a black man. They wrapped him in canvas and dug a deep grave for him circling it with rocks and marking it with a cross. The area where he was buried was renamed Grave Creek.

The question remained as to how he had died. Who was he. What was a Black man doing so far out in the wilds. No one ever came forward to say they knew him or knew why he was here. "Like the poem 'The Death Of Moses', the men 'just upturned the sod and lay the dead man there!'"

#### The Prowler of 1938

Florence Miller was looking forward to a quiet day. Most of her children were grown up and married. The men were haying and would be gone all day. They had taken lunches as they were haying in a remote area of the ranch.

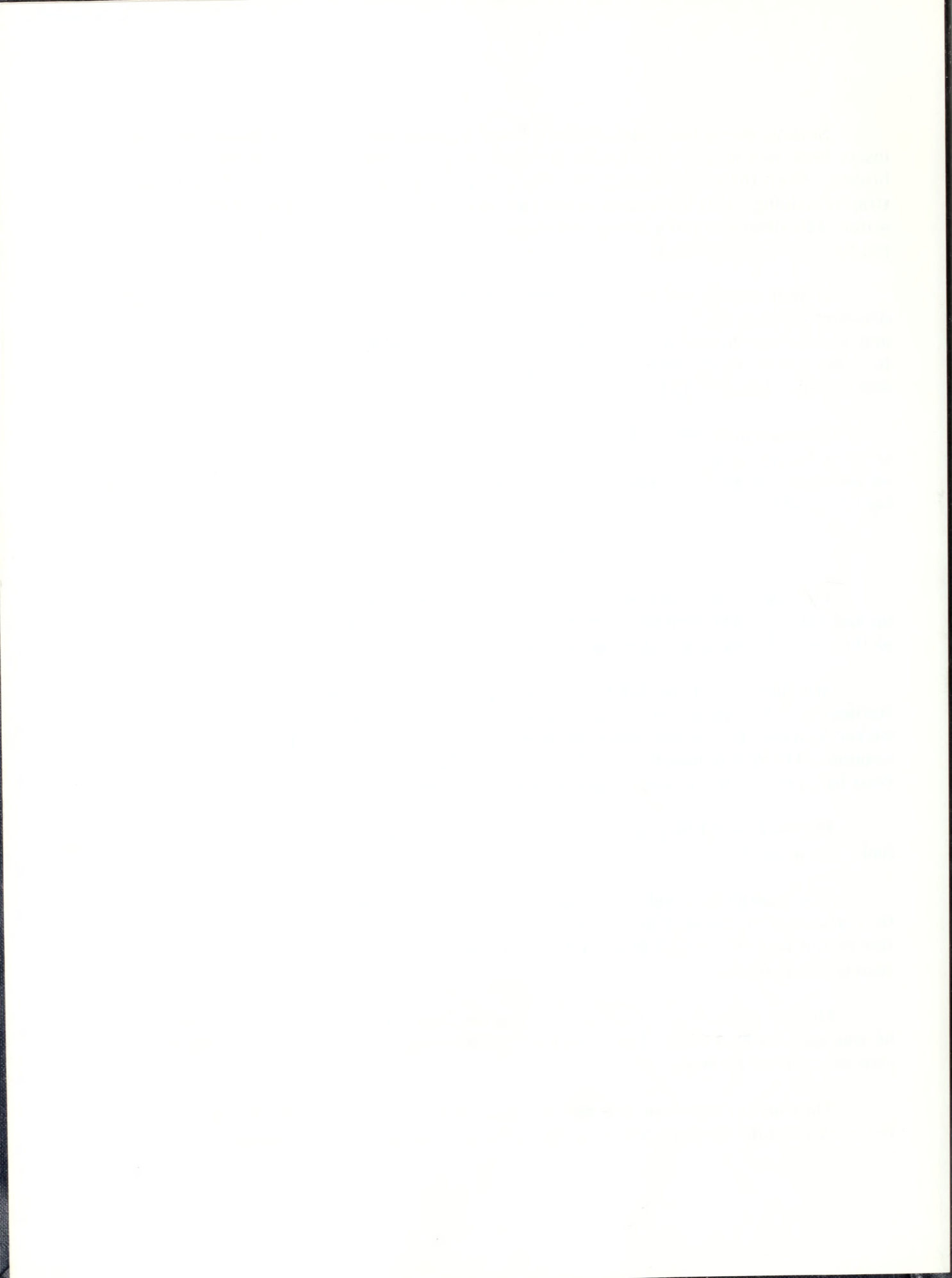
She hummed at her work that morning fixing a salad for her lunch when she was startled by a shadow across the door. It was a man she had never seen before. Pulling a wicked looking knife he demanded something to eat. Hurriedly she fixed bacon, eggs, and potatoes. He then demanded bread and butter. She complied and placed them near him. Next he wanted salt and pepper and shakily she obeyed. Finally he left.

Florence, salad forgotten, hid in a dark closet until the men returned and then she had quite a tale to tell.

The prowler had walked across the field and went into a small outbuilding where their grandfather chased him out with a fence post. He then went to a place occupied by Bessie and Lee Hall where Bessie enroute to the outhouse met him on the path and was scared into hysterics.

He was trying to pry a window open of the Red School House with his knife when he was stopped by a man. That man was the author's father. After talking with him the prowler went on his way.

They never knew from whence he came, when he left, or even his name. However the story was told for years around campfires and to little children in homes.

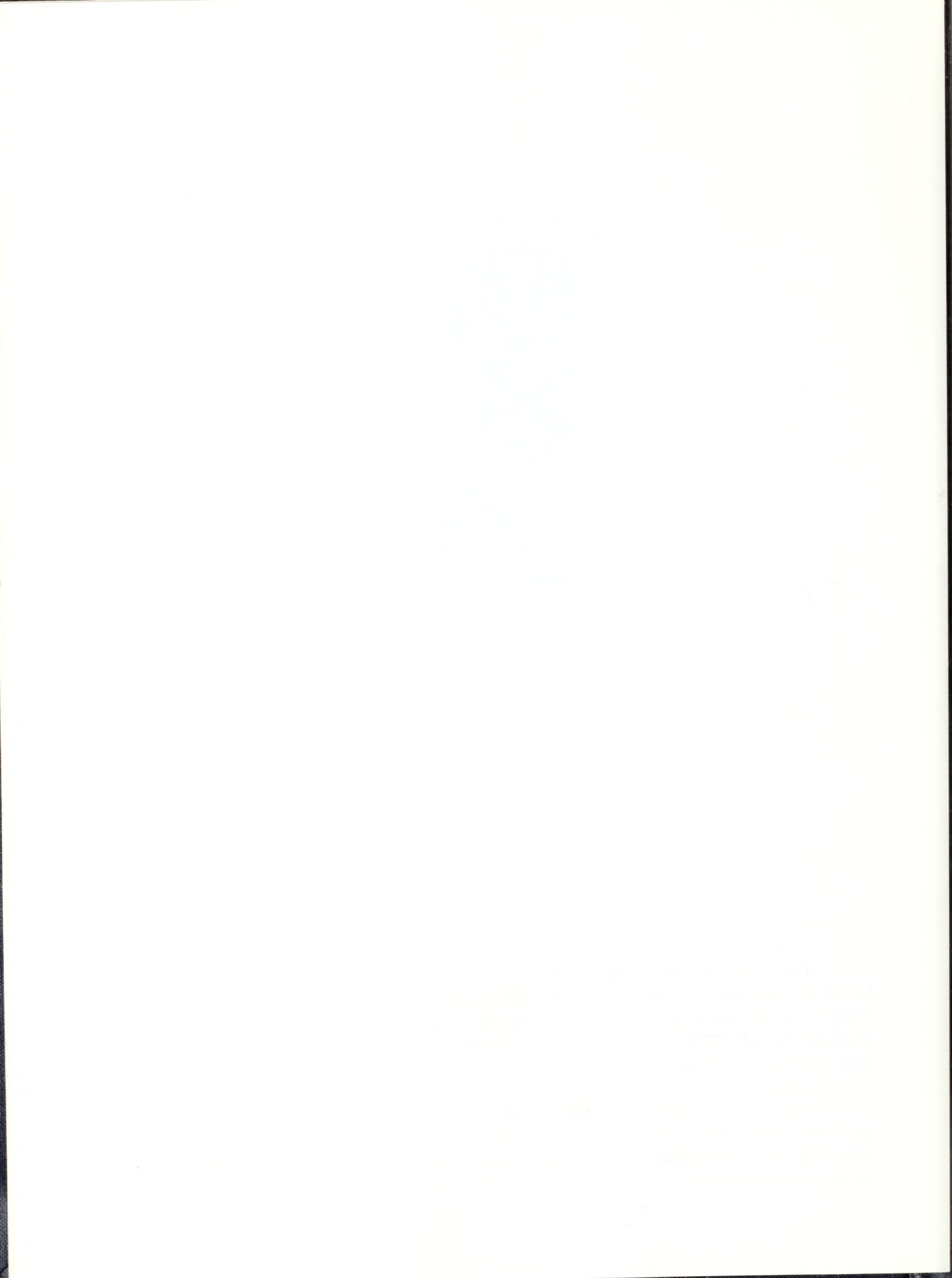




### Grouse's Own Lizzie Borden

Just above our old ranch lies the old Ketrin place where this strange story took place. In 1900 a pair of newlyweds set up housekeeping there. They were Bill and Kate Smith. They were judged to be an odd couple as they kept to themselves most of the time. Her brother had been murdered by the notorious Marsh and Madison Gang which could have added to their reclusiveness.

Soon it was evident that Kate was expecting a baby. She misjudged her due date and went to a dance in a sled. She danced a couple of quadrilles and then retired to the sled where a baby's newborn cry was soon heard. She had a fine baby boy right in the sled without any assistance.





Two years went by and then a terrible fight occurred between Kate and Bill. He tried to kill her and was succeeding when she grabbed the double bitted axe and neatly cut off his head. She was so angry that she kicked the dismembered head all around the kitchen floor. All the while she was rending the air with a maniacal laugh. A neighbor sent for the sheriff of Mackay.

Kate was to spend the rest of her days as the guest of the Governor in the penitentiary.

These stories were told from time to time by the family to scare or enforce rules for children of the house. They were told in the same spirit as the bogey man stories.





## CARIBOO MOUNTAIN

We receive inquiries quite often regarding what is still at Cariboo Mountain, how to get there, and what is its history. I found the following document in the library of the historical society. It does not have an author's name but does have the # 205 and the date of July, 1975. It appears to be a government document but it has the answers to some of the above questions. It is reproduced here to hopefully answer your questions regarding the above area.

Some placer mining camps were worked out rather quickly, while others lasted for many seasons. Richness of the mines did not determine how long they lasted: length of the normal mining season (usually the length of the season water was available to operate sluices and other gold recovery equipment) and difficulty of handling the gold bearing gravel, along with the amount of gravel to be processed, generally had more impact on the duration of a mining camp. Most placer miners preferred to get rich quickly and to finish working their claims as soon as possible. But mining districts which could not be exhausted in a season or two enjoyed greater stability and permanence. Cariboo mountain, with a short annual water season and with deeply buried placers, lasted a long time as a mining center.

Discovered in the summer of 1870, these mines were named for Jesse Fairchilds, generally known as Cariboo Fairchilds because he had worked in the Cariboo mines in British Columbia. While contrasting greatly in richness with the fabulous buried placers characteristic of Cariboo, B. C., some of the deep placers on Cariboo mountain were slightly reminiscent of Cariboo Fairchilds' earlier experience. Some of the Cariboo mountain deposits showed enough early promise to set off a modest gold rush from Malad and Corinne-the latter a new anti-Mormon freighters community on the Central Pacific in Utah.

Accounts of the excitement in Corinne and of the beginnings of the new mining district (mistakenly identified at first as in Wyoming) appeared in the Daily Utah Reporter, September 8-12. The September 8th issue states, "Reports reach us of the discovery of very rich gold mines in the district known as Cariboo, in Wyoming. The precious metal is said to be in the form called 'free gold,' and the richest location is about seventy miles east of Soda Springs near the headwaters of Green River. Of course, the reports give it as richer than anything yet struck in the mountains. A party is going from this neighborhood, and as the distance is not great, we shall probably have authentic intelligence before many days."

A follow up story appeared in the September 10th issue stating, "At last we have some reliable news from this new Eldorado, and from gentlemen not liable to me mistaken. Messrs. Fisher and Lavey reached Corinne yesterday, direct from the mines. Their party of twelve had located and gone to work but a few days before, when a sudden fire destroyed all their provisions but fifty pounds of flour. Three men were at once sent out, making the distance to Ross' Fork, ninety miles, with no provisions but one sage hen. One of the number returned at once with supplies obtained there, while the two mentioned came on to this city. Their entire company and all they had seen were making ten to fifteen dollars per day to the man. The area of pay ground is quite extensive.



"Quite a number of companies are already on the way there, two of which got lost in the mountains by attempting to find a shorter route, and suffered considerably. The only direct and fast route is to go up the regular Montana road to Ross Fork, from which place a trail leads off a little north of east for ninety miles to the center of the district. A large map, posted up at Ross Fork, shows the exact route.

"Fisher and Lavey rode horseback from the last point here, over a hundred miles, in a day and night, about the quickest time on record in these parts. They have purchased ten thousand pounds of supplies and several hundred picks and shovels, with which they proposed to make good freighting time back to their locations. The supplies were obtained of Barratt, who worked all of last night to get them shipped, and the scenes around his store this morning remind one powerfully of the old times of 'gold stampedes.' Now that the mines are an established and ascertained fact, whether rich or not, quite a number of Corinnethians are preparing for a start, of whom more anon."

More came in the paper on September 12th. "It is not yet a week since the discovery of the rich gold diggings in Eastern Idaho became known through the towns and settlements along the roads between here and Montana. Thomas Winsett informs us that he was at Malad City when the account reached that place, and in an hour afterward there were parties of from two to ten on their way to the gold fields, and all the way down to Corinne he met people going up to try their fortunes.

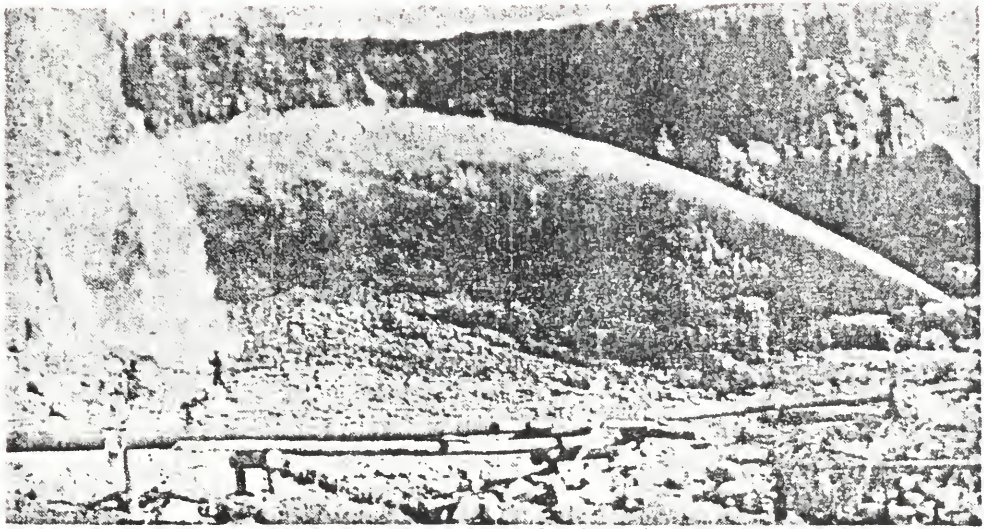
"In addition to the party that left here yesterday, we notice now some more, including many of the business men of the city, who are to start tomorrow...The distance being only a four or five days' journey, and the road a good one, the trip, outside of the nature of the expedition, will be pleasant to the participants. Later accounts all indicate that the district is a basin of great extent and richness.

"The only practicable route of travel in there is that described in our last issue, namely, the stage road to Ross' Fork, 120 miles from Corinne, and thence 90 miles northeast to the district. We are informed by persons long acquainted with that part of the country that these mines are in Idaho, and not in Wyoming as we inadvertently stated on Saturday. This city is the nearest starting point on the railroad, as well as the most convenient supply depot for the new diggings, and all present appearances promise that we are destined to have an immense trade this Fall with the miners of Idaho."

As the rail terminus for the Montana road, which ran north through Idaho west of the Cariboo Mountain, Corinne served as a supply center for this new placer district as well. Because of high elevation and lateness of the season, those who joined the Cariboo gold rush in 1870 could not do very much except prospect when they got there. They could go out panning gold to find the best claims. But with acres of gravel to be worked, panning was too slow and difficult a process to use for gold production. Sluice boxes (in which a strong current of water carried placer gravel over slats that trapped and separated out the gold) worked best. But they could be used only when a lot of water could be brought through ditches to the better claims. Some water still was available for operating a sluice box (which did not function as well as it should), and the miners gained confidence that they would have a lively camp the next summer.





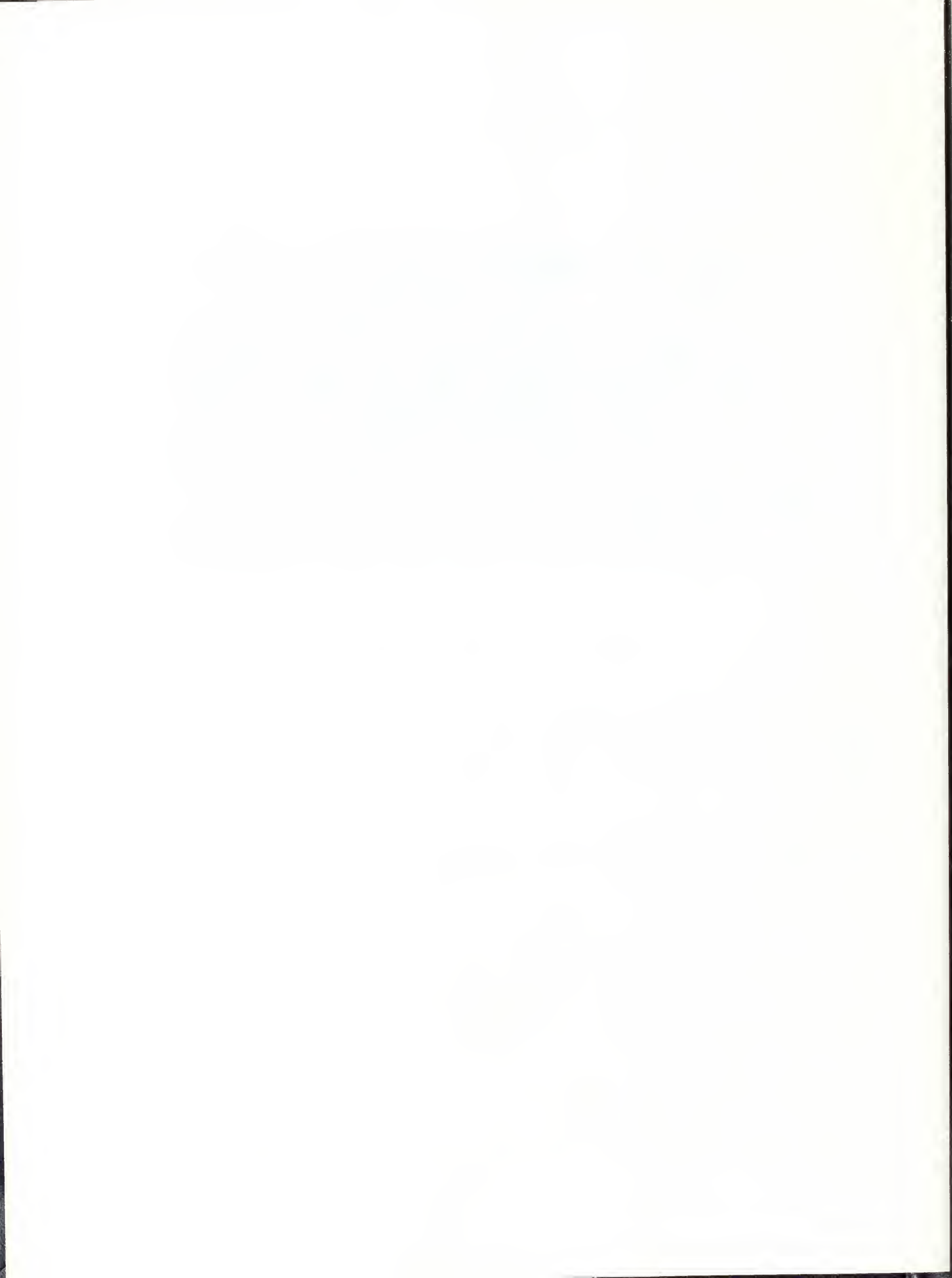


### Placer Mining at Cariboo Mountain

Cariboo Mountain rises to an elevation of 9803 feet, and most of the mines there were found at high elevation. Few other Idaho camps were anywhere near that high. Heavy winter snow prevented much in the way of mining for half the year, and when the deep snow finally melted, water ran off so that little could be done much of the rest of the time.

This kind of situation was typical of mining in the higher country. When spring finally came to Cariboo in May, those who had spent the winter there had a chance to give their sluices a better test. Keenan, Allen, and Davis-the pioneer company who started operating in the spring-recovered sixty dollars in a day and a half. Their return ran high enough to encourage construction of a saw mill to turn out lumber for more sluice boxes. Then hydraulic giants were installed to obtain placer gravel to feed the sluices. Giant streams of water (shot out of nozzles fed by metal pipe leading from ditches at higher elevation) cut away surface gravel and swept the gold bearing placer gravel into sluice boxes. Within a year or two a number of giants were at work in the region, and by the fourth season, eight of them had gone into production.

As the years went on, gold recovery at Cariboo proved erratic. A few spots yielded well, but most of the ground turned out to be marginal. One or two claims gave satisfactory results-an ounce a day (about \$20) for each miner at work. Most of the others provided from two dollars to five dollars, with the leaner ones of interest mainly to Chinese.





Unlike most Idaho districts, miners at Cariboo made no effort to exclude the Chinese. They never seemed to get enough white miners to come to work the available ground, so driving out the Asiatics seemed pointless. Chinese companies owned claims and operated giants along with everyone else-apparently without discrimination. That way, unlike other camps that kept out Chinese competition during the more productive early years, Cariboo had whites and Chinese at work on adjacent claims most of the time, and did not become strictly an Oriental camp after the seasons of early excitement.

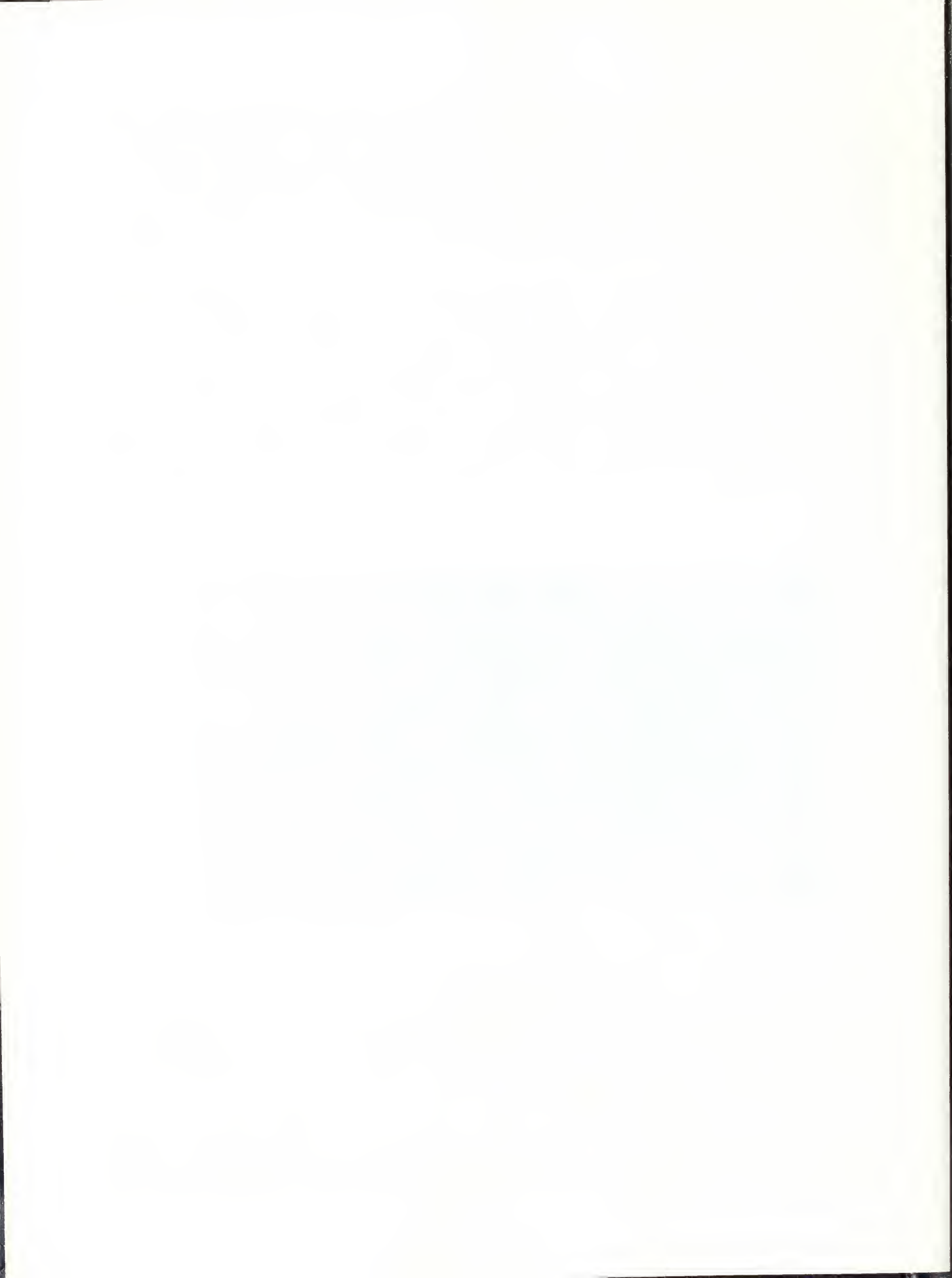
In the early days of placer operations, Cariboo Mountain had two mining districts, one on the east side at Iowa bar and the other on the west with Keenan City as its center. Keenan City, with a dozen or so log cabins on McCoy Creek, had become the major (and only recognizable) mining center. Iowa City on the other side of the mountain was pretty hard to find, even for the people fortunate enough to go through it. In the Iowa district (named for an Iowa discoverer), William Clemens (a cousin of Mark Twain who mined in various parts of Idaho for more than thirty years) spent many seasons placering and promoting the country. He had three hydraulic giants in operation there, the most in the district.



Clemens, on the left, at Cariboo Mt.

Cariboo Fairchilds spent fourteen years in McCoy district not far from Keenan City and had quite a time there. In 1872 he 'broke his leg while skylarking with a friend one day. In 1884 he had a disastrous misadventure with one of Cariboo Mountain's numerous bears, an encounter which he unfortunately failed to survive.

With the discovery of lode claims in 1874, Cariboo Mountain offered an additional attraction to early miners. Over the next decade, a number of these new lodes were developed to enough depth to prove that thousands of tons of ore were available if anyone



could manage to operate a hard rock mine in such a remote and difficult location. Simple arastras (rock crushers made of local materials, with drag stones used to grind up ore in a circular rock lined surface) provided a modest production. But not enough thousands of tons of ore were available in one place to justify a major stamp milling enterprise, although for years such a possibility attracted attention to the district.

Even though the slowly worked placers proved spotty, with occasional rich streaks at bedrock, by 1886 production may have amounted to a million dollars or so. Reports of two hundred thousand dollars in 1879 alone suggest that large a total or perhaps twice that much if enough of the other seasons provided as much as a hundred thousand dollars. Considering the relatively small number of miners at work most of the time and the shortage of water high on Cariboo Mountain, even a million dollar total is difficult to substantiate

All kinds of exaggerated reports of mineral wealth came out of most western mining camps but with enough short seasons with a fair number of giants at work, Cariboo did provide a substantial return to a modest number of miners. Considering its location so remote from other mining districts and distant from sources of supply, Cariboo Mountain provided a definite economic stimulus to the early development of the upper Snake country. At least one enterprising miner found that he could grow some kind of premium Idaho potatoes next to a snow bank high on the mountain at a time when few farmers were at work in the valleys below. But generally the miners at Cariboo had to depend upon distant sources of supply and their needs offered an inducement to settlers to develop the surrounding country at a time when not too many other economic attractions were available to encourage settlement of that part of Idaho.

## CARIBOO MOUNTAIN

The following is a letter I found in the Historical Society files. It has no date but is listed under the letterhead, "Mi-Oro Mining Company, Soda Springs, Idaho. Under the letterhead is the statement, "Gold Mining Is Our Business And We're Damn Good At It."

"My name is Eddie Divine. I Represent the MiOro Mining Co. of Soda Springs, Idaho.

"Welcome to the Mt. Pisgah Mining District. Some People refer to this district as the Caribou Mtn. or Caribou Basin Mining District.

"Mt. Pisgah was the name of the mountain now called Caribou Mtn. Mt. Pisgah was declared a mining district in the late 1800's. The name Caribou came from an early miner named Cariboo Jack. This man was quite a figure in the mining district of Cariboo, Alaska. Just when he came to the Mt. Pisgah mining district isn't known, but he did come with enough pomp and bluster to get the name of the Mtn. changed to his.





"The geology of Caribou is a simple one. The country rock consists of Mesozoic sedimentary rocks cut by dioritic dikes and sills...The deposits are large tubular masses of quartz that were shattered and then mineralized with calcite and Auri ferrous pyrite. In most of the deposits the pyrite is oxidized and the gold is free.

"This district had both types of mines, lode and placer. The lode mines were productive, but all the recorded production was from the placer mines...

"At one time the elevation of Caribou Mtn. was very much higher than we see it at the present time. Like any other Mtn. the elements started their work. Earthquakes, ice, snow, water and gravity. With the combination of the above the Mtn. started to disintegrate. The higher peaks or pinnacles started to break down. This in turn formed the placers.

"We have two (2) distinct types of placer deposits in this district. The first and most dominant is the sapporitical deposit. As you look at the erosion of Caribou Mtn. from the Caribou basin you will see three very distinct alluvial corfs. These corfs are the remains or the results of a terrific weight pressure combined with the natural gravity. These corfs are gullies or washes as you see them. But they are nothing but gullies left by the nature of applied pressure seeking the softest and most pliable course down the hill.

"The sapporitical deposit is a deposit of country rock and gold bearing quartz that has been disintegrated from the top of the Mtn. This rock was moved down the hill by gravity and ice. Never has this type of deposit been introduced to a turbulent or free flowing stream of water. The concentration of the gold or precious metals has been the results of the ice age melting and depositing the residual of it's former captive, the top of the Mtn.

"The other placer deposit is a true deposit in the sense of the word. This deposit is some of the same disseminated quartz we have been talking about in the paragraph or two above. But, this quartz was in the position to be washed down the hill and into the path of the turbulent waters and the natural milling process of mother nature. The specific weight of gold is very much greater than most any other metal. With the help of water and the grinding of rock upon rock, the gold was free to deposit. The river bed is a natural catch area or riffle for this. Within the crevices and large holes the gold would deposit.

"This is the type of deposit the miners found on Barnes Creek and McCoy Creek. The true placer deposits were confined to these two areas. The results of the mining on these two creeks was very good. It was very much like any other mining area, good spots and bad. I think the bad spots outnumbered the good ones.

"The lode mining on Caribou Mtn. was centered on two mines, the Pittsburgh and the Robinson. The Robinson was the most productive of the two. According to hearsay, it was a good one. It had a complete stamp mill, running water, and a good camp site. The whole thing except the production of the mine is not on record.

"I have been an underground miner for thirty (30) years. I have been underground at both of these mines. It is of my opinion that the miners that mined these two (2) mines

"The world is a stage,  
And all the men and women  
Are merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
Some good, some bad, some simple, some complex;  
And this our life, the stage, is but a scene  
Which has no other audience but the world."

— William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*

At the heart of the human condition  
is the quest for meaning and purpose.  
We are born into a world of mystery and wonder,  
and we spend our lives seeking to understand  
our place in the universe. The journey is often  
solitary, but it is also one of discovery and growth.

The human spirit is resilient and adaptable.  
It can endure the harshest of conditions and  
emerge stronger than ever before. In the face  
of adversity, we find our greatest strength and  
our truest selves. The challenges we face  
are not meant to break us, but to shape us.

Life is a journey, not a destination.  
The path is what matters, not the end goal.  
We must embrace the uncertainty and the unknown,  
for it is there that we find our true purpose.  
The journey is the reward, and the destination  
is merely a point of arrival. The world is  
our stage, and we are the players.

The human condition is a complex one.  
We are born with a sense of wonder and curiosity,  
and we spend our lives seeking to understand  
the world around us. The journey is often  
solitary, but it is also one of discovery and growth.  
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didn't know what in the hell they were trying to do. So it is very possible that the lode mines were not given a fair chance to produce due to the incapability of both management and labor. The structure of the quartz stringers are so separated by the country rock, it doesn't appear to be a profitable operation.

"To get back to the placer operations.

"We, of the Mi-Oro Mining Co., have twenty valid claims in this district. As you can see by the map (no map was included with this letter) we have located in both T.3 S and T.4 S, R. rr E.B.M. These claims were located in 1968 - 1970. They are legally located and monumented according to law.

"The claim we are now working and trying to get into production is known as the Clemons Bar. To give you a brief introduction to the Clemons Bar, I will give you the information I have received throughout the years from some of the old timers I have met in the past. Some of this is B.S. and some of it is true. I don't know where to divide one from the other. But this is the story as I have condensed it over the years.

"Jimmie Clemons was a brother of Mark Twain. How he ever got to Caribou Mtn. is still a mystery. Gold fever I suppose. Jimmie came to the Mtn., apparently he could see a potential there, so he went to work. He brought in some Chinese laborers, some sections of high pressure pipe, a couple of high pressure water monitors, some rice for the Chinese and some sipping whisky for himself and went to work.

"They dug ditches all over the area, but finally Jimmie got the water where he wanted it and started washing gravel. The results were very good. He did so well in fact that he couldn't contain himself. In the meantime, word of his success had leaked out and Caribou City was founded. How many people lived there is a matter of argument. From one (1) to fifteen (15) thousand.

"To get back to Jimmie. Jimmie could see a potential thing here, so he built the Evergreen Hotel, brought in a bunch of girls, a carload of whisky and lived the life of Riley. Who the hell Riley is I don't know. Just what year and at what time Jimmie left Caribou City is not known. But wherever he went and wherever he died, I'll bet he died with a smile on his face.

"Gentlemen, I could go on forever with some of the stories I have been told about Caribou and Caribou City. But time is growing short with my short visit with you...I can only relate the so called facts as I know them or as the facts have been given to me by some of the old timers.

"I would like to thank you for spending some time in Caribou Basin and at the mine of the Mi-Oro Mining Co. Please come back and visit us another time."

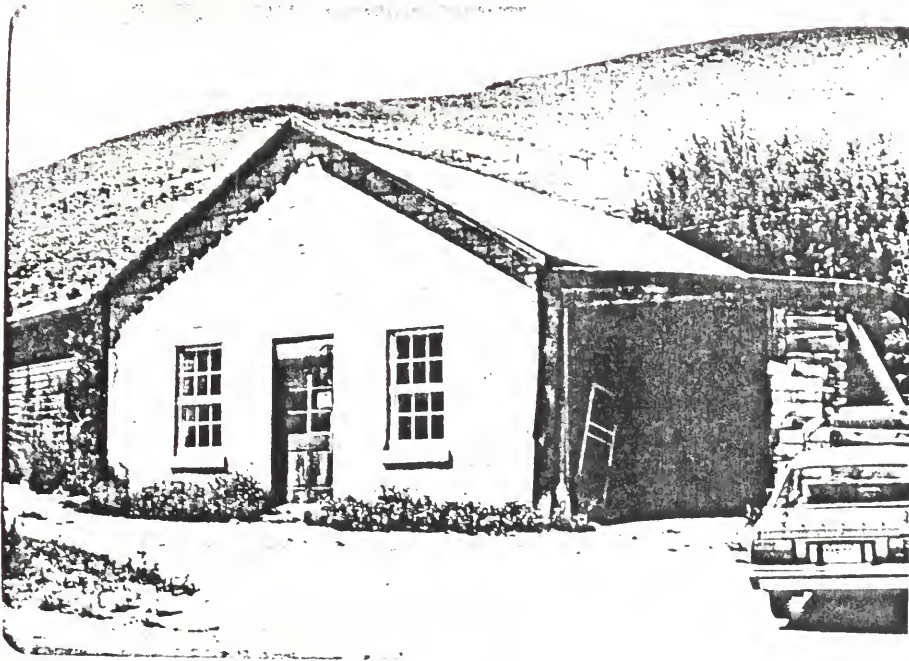
Eddie Divine





## CHALLIS, IDAHO

The following information was gathered by Mal Spooner of the North Custer Historical Society.



North Custer Historical Society Museum

Challis is located in the geographical center of the State of Idaho. It was founded in January, 1878. The elevation is 5,280 feet and the population is approximately one thousand.

It was known as 'The Station,' and as 'The Fort' because of a stone fort hastily constructed on what is now Third Avenue just off Main Street. The fort was built as a protection against marauding Indians. Challis was named after Alvah P. Challis one of the prominent founders.

There are prosperous gold, silver, copper, zinc, and lead mines situated thirty to fifty miles into the high wilderness west of the town that depend on it to supply the tens of thousands of miners over the years. The miners came in droves from the gold diggings in California, Oregon, Washington, and from the East and Midwest. These miners were always looking for that 'pot' at the end of the rainbow.

Mining booms in the 1870's, 1895, and again in the 1920's saw the rise of many small

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towns in the area which later dwindled into ghost towns or were returned to ground level by the ravages of time and weather.

The mountains and the deep river chasms are rich in minerals and gems. Sometimes the gleaning of these is many times more expensive than the result. The profit of prospecting is lost in the crippling costs of machinery and technology.

Some of the boom towns of the early gold rushes can still be visited. These towns are rich in history and have tales of daring. The mountains and forests around Challis abound in these ruins.

Challis can be easily reached from the south and east on State Highway 93 and from the west on Highway 75.

From the date of its inception back in January of 1878, the purpose and intent of the City of Challis was to serve as a 'station' between civilization and the frontier mining towns and camps in the high back country to the west.

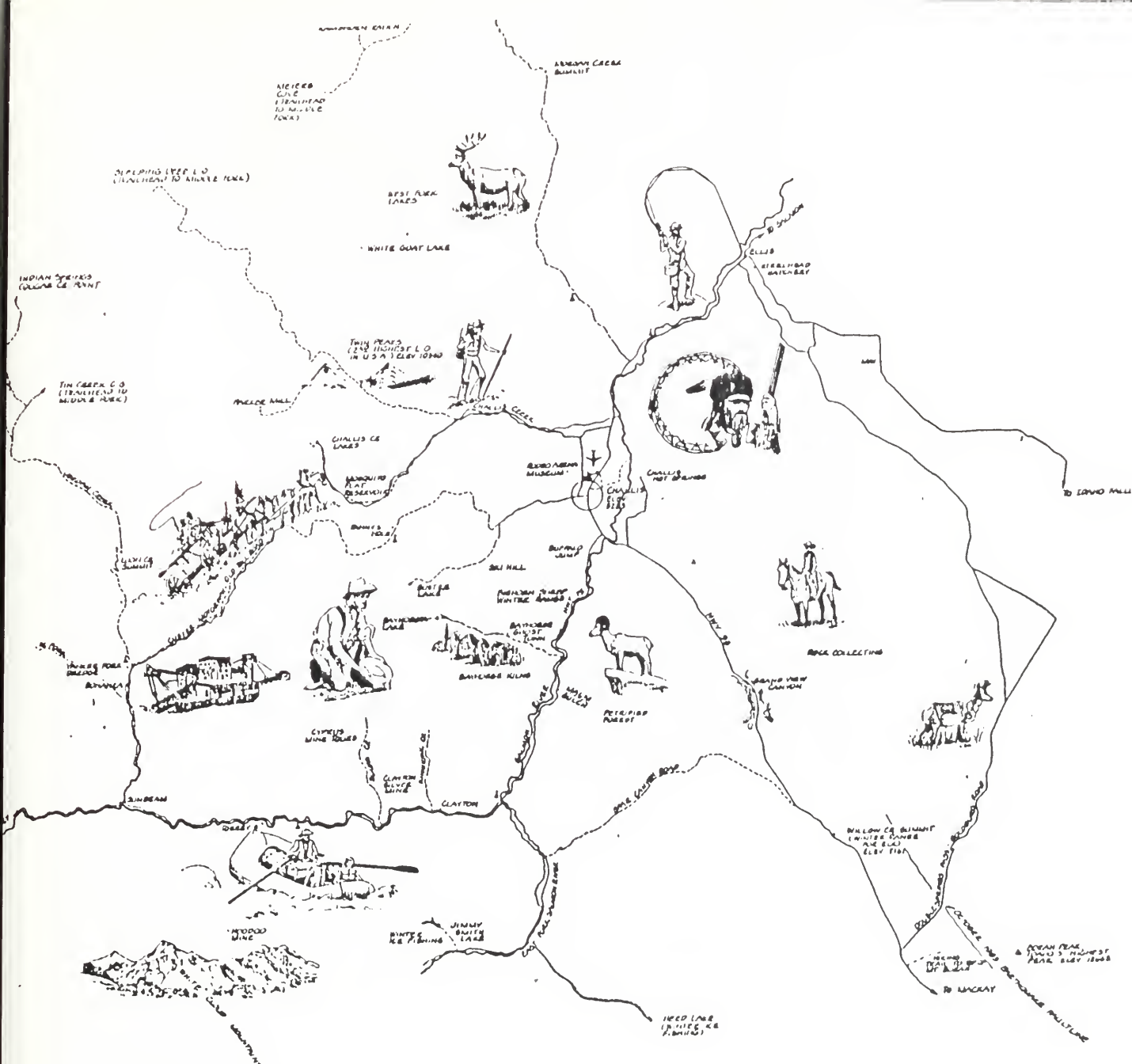
Old trails and pathways crisscrossing the Northwest in the pioneer days are nearly obliterated by the ravages of time and weather. Here and there you may find the rut marks of the iron tires of the stage coach wheels of yore. Where the trails met at river crossings and little foothills, towns such as Challis came about. There are in Challis old cabins, old bridge abutments, and old stone buildings remaining to mark the milestones past which our pioneer forefathers trekked for the century gone by.

The nearest towns of consequence are about sixty miles away north, west, and south. The city does not have a great industry, a mill, a factory, or a chocolate bar manufacturer. The first founders of this city had the main and ultimate goal of setting up and establishing a full self supporting village that would find means of raising crops, filling orders of food and equipment for miners, hostelling the travellers, and tending livestock and beasts of burden during the winters.

Challis has survived because it has had the will to survive. The inhabitants proudly reminisce the days of old, retelling the tales told them by their grand parents and friends.

Many mining towns, such as Custer, Bonanza, and Bayhorse, are within a few hours drive on roads that climb a few thousand feet into the nearby Challis and Sawtooth Mountain Ranges. The Salmon River, long noted for its plentiful salmon, steelhead, and trout catches, is a two hundred mile long river which winds its way entirely within the State of Idaho. It flows from Stanley to its confluence with the Snake River to the west of Grangeville.





Custer County

## CUSTER COUNTY

Custer County's geologic phenomena have always been of interest to scientists and amateurs alike. With the advent of the October, 1983, Mt. Borah earthquake there is a modern day example of the power of the Earth's tectonics.

October 28, 1983, was a date that the Custer County residents will not forget. The "Quake of '83" stories will go down in Idaho folklore. The quake originally was reported to be 6.9 magnitude on the Richter scale and was later upgraded to 7.3 when all the available data was compiled.







Boulder in Challis Yard

In the month following the earthquake, there were twenty-one aftershocks that registered 3.4 or over with hundreds of smaller ones. By March 16, 1985, there had been one hundred ninety-four shocks of 3.0 or higher. Predictions have been made that thirty earthquakes a year can occur in this area which is called the "Basin and Range Province" by geologists. It is called this because it is not on the edge of one of the Earth's massive plates.

Scientists estimate that the Thousand Springs Valley below the Lost River Mountains has dropped ten to thirty feet. This caused significant hydrological changes in the area. Immediately following the quake sand boils appeared on the valley floor spouting water like geysers. On Chilly Butte water gushed from the limestone formations and many of the area streams doubled their flow. North of Grandview Canyon, the hot springs and small reservoirs on the Warm Springs Ranch totally dried up as if the water had been sucked into a drain. The warm springs started to flow again within a week and has increased its flow by 500%. The increase was enough to enable the owners the opportunity to power a 650 to 750 KW electrical generation plant.

Sink holes, water spouts, and the new lake that began forming in Thousand Springs Valley are now history but the increased flow of water did make it necessary to increase the height of the dam holding Mackay Reservoir.



The fracture line from the Quake of '83 can easily be seen from Highway 93 between Challis and Mackay. Originally the scarp line was fifteen miles long but with continued aftershocks increased to a length of twenty-three miles. The location is the base of Mt. Borah in the south to Willow Summit in the north. It follows the lower mountain contours and crosses the May/Patterson road.

For study purposes and for sightseeing, this earthquake scarp is in an excellent location. From the south, after passing the Mackay Reservoir, turn right on the gravel road just past highway mile marker 131. From Challis, watch for the fracture line as soon as you come over Willow Creek Summit. Turn left on the Earthquake May/Patterson road just past the Road Damage Mt. Borah historical site sign. This road will take you right to the fracture site as it runs across the road. The epicenter was to the right of the road right below Borah.



Additional information of the Mt. Borah Earthquake is available at the Challis Public Library on Main St. and the Mackay Public Library. The Challis National Forest offices on Hwy 93 in both Challis and Mackay have maps and information on the quake. The U. S. Geological Survey has compiled earthquake data and in June, 1985, The Red Book became available for a twenty dollar cost. It details the quake.

If you can obtain a copy of Geology Along Highway 93 in Idaho from your public library it is a good source of other geological information about the Challis area. A Challis Forest map would be a big help in touring the area. The surrounding country is beautiful and uncrowded with many camping sites and comfortable motels in both communities. If you have the time, stop in one of the cafes in Challis or Mackay for a meal and a chat. The residents all have a tale to tell about the "Quake of '83".





## BURTON COMMUNITY

The following information was assembled by a student of mine, Carolyn Powell, during her junior year at Madison High School.

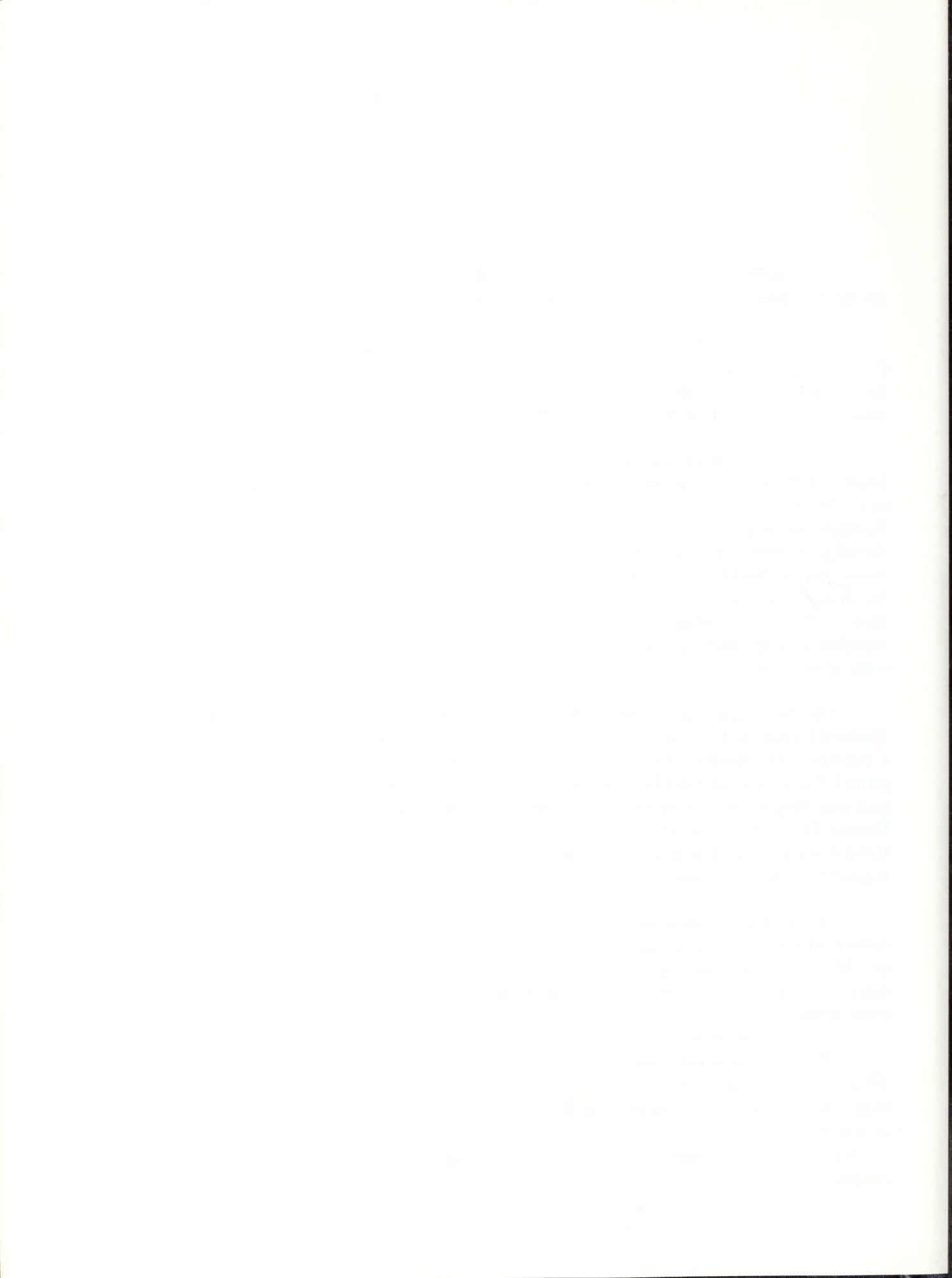
In 1883 the L.D.S. Church Presidency, John Taylor, George Q. Cannon, and Joseph F. Smith issued a pioneer call, "Go to the Snake River Country; found settlements; care for the Indians; stand on equal footings and cooperate in making improvements; gain influence among all men; and strengthen the cords of the stakes of Zion."

This area was very unique. Although the golden spike had been driven at Corinne, Utah, on May 10, 1869, and the Railroad had been built passing through Market Lake towards Montana and the mines. Only trappers, Indians, and some gold seekers had been through our part of the country in 1879. Salt Lake City and other southern towns were thriving. Colonization had all but been completed farther south. The sage brush and cedar trees that so thickly covered this area had seen very few men. It has been said the sage brush and cedar trees were so large and so thick that a man on horse back could not be seen. The mighty Snake River had only been crossed a few times. There were many marshes through here making their way to empty into the river. Wild animals and snakes were abundant.

Beaver Dick was undoubtedly the first white man in this valley. He was born Richard Leigh on January 9, 1831, at Manchester, England. His parents wanted him to be a minister. He came to America as a stow-a-way when he was seven years old. Shortly he joined the services of the Hudson Bay Company. He could play several musical instruments and was very friendly with the Mormons and Brigham Young who gave him the name of Beaver Dick. This was on account of his two front teeth and he could catch beaver where there weren't any. He trapped for different companies until about 1850 when he started trapping for himself and came to the Snake River Valley.

Jenny was a Shoshone girl. There is a legend to the effect that she had married before to a French-Canadian. He was killed and his furs taken from by the Indians in the Jackson Hole Country. However that may be, Dick married her when she was still young. In the course of their married life, six children were born.

Dick was a good provider and Jenny was ambitious and extremely helpful to him. Twice a year he would take a string of ponies and go to the trading post at Fort Hall. He would later sell or send his pelts to Market Lake for trade. Sometimes he was employed as a government scout. Jenny Lake in Jackson Hole was named for Jenny. Her ability to tan hides, cure meat, make and pitch wickiups, cook, and do all manner of labor made her invaluable to him.







Beaver Dick With His First Family

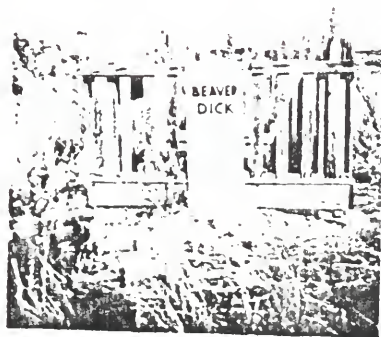
In the fateful year of 1876 small pox came into the Snake River Country. Dick's family was exposed and succumbed to the disease. The first child died on December 25, 1876. Each day there after until January 1st a member of the family died. Dick laid Jenny and his papooses away and built a wall of logs about them. A head board marked each grave. There is a rumor about that he buried them under the floor of his cabin.





Jenny and the First Families Grave

The final burial ground is near the bank of the North Fork of the Snake River about three-fourths mile north of the Ricks College farm near where the mouth of the Teton River empties into the Snake River. This was marked by the Burton Ward Boy Scouts August 21, 1937. A cement curb surrounds the lot and an attractive iron fence is embedded in it.



Beaver Dick's Grave

Dick then moved to the mouth of the Teton Canyon near what is known as Hog Hollow. He is buried there on the top of the canyon. The flood of the bursting of the Teton Dam did not get high enough to disturb his grave.

The decade of the seventies was the twilight period between the temporary and the permanent settlers in the Snake River Valley. Although there was never anything in Southeastern Idaho comparable to the lawlessness of the mining camps in Western Idaho



or across the boundary in Eastern Montana, men like Henry Plummer, Boone Helme, or the leading members of an organization called the Innocent operated where wealth was abundant in the mining camps.

Often they waited to attack the stage coach loaded with gold until it was in the Idaho Territory as a means of diverting suspicion away from their own organization. After the railroad came there were fewer holdups. The road agents turned to cattle rustling on the Snake River frontier. In the late seventies and early eighties many large herds ranged in the valleys and mountains of the Snake River Country.

The Upper Snake River Valley was infested by outlaws. One of the principle characters in the cattle and horse rustling was Bob Tartar. He had a gang who received stock from their confederates out in the field and hid it in the densely wooded river bottoms. There were natural island pastures between the two main channels of the Snake River in the Burton area. Some of these men built a hideout against a ledge of rocks on the east side of the south side of the south butte. From this hideout they could command a view of the surrounding territory. Yet at the same time they had ready access to the river upon which they kept a boat. In case of danger they could slip across the river to some island pasture where their horses and equipment were kept.



Hideout On Southern Butte

This hideout was first located by Ole P. Jensen who was a settler of 1883. He was hunting horses in the vicinity of the south butte when he noted a little wisp of smoke rising from a ledge. He was curious enough to creep up cautiously as he suspected a freak of nature at work. As he drew near he could hear voices and he crawled directly above the hideout. In listening to the conversation of the rustlers he learned much about their activities in stealing horses, changing brands on cattle, and all related activities.

In the summer of 1883 the Rexburg settlers witnessed a running gun battle between two elements of the Tarter gang. Perhaps the most colorful character of this cattle rustling was Ed Harrington. He was never known to fight or pick a quarrel but went about his crooked work in a manner becoming a gentleman. Some have suggested that the Owen Wister character 'Trampas' in the Virginian is based upon the activities of Harrington. He





and two others were arrested in the Teton Basin by deputies from Rexburg, Samuel Swarner and Samuel Jones. As one man, Jim Robinson, tried to run away he was shot in the leg. Later this leg was amputated in an attempt to save his life. It was in vain as he died a couple of days later and he was buried on the Rexburg bench.

At another time a posse from Wyoming arrived in Rexburg chasing outlaws. After a gun battle with the outlaws a young outlaw from Texas was killed. His remains were taken to the bench where he was buried near his companion of above.

When Thomas E. Ricks came to this country he crossed the South Fork of the Snake River in a sleigh on January 9, 1883. After locating the Rexburg townsite they returned to visit the Poole homestead in Menan. They went by way of the Carter Ranch crossing the Henry's Fork of the Snake. By February there were many pioneers coming into the country crossing the river on ice.

The great width of the river no doubt enabled them to visualize the difficulties such a mighty stream would present to teamsters after the ice broke up. The streams were much deeper then as they were not hampered by water sheds, dams, or ditches. There was only one point that was practical for fording the river and that was clear up to Parker. This was too far for most of the people to travel so the decision was made to build a ferry across the North (Henry's) Fork of the Snake River directly west of Rexburg.



John Dalling and Peter Flamm

John Dalling and Peter Flamm went to work on the ferry boat and by the 20th of March it was completed. This was the first ferry built in the Upper Snake River Valley. The boat was twenty by thirty feet with a two foot railing on each side and a folding apron on each end.

Caleb Flamm operated the Ferry and charged seventy cents for the service. The first Utah outfit to cross was probably driven by Hans C. Jensen.

and the other two are the same as the first two. The first two are the same as the first two. The first two are the same as the first two.

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George Hibbard, Carl Flamm, Caleb Flamm,  
Charlie Flamm, and Hyrum (Hank) Pelton

The real history of the Burton area begins with Bob Tartar. He camped on the North Fork of the river. Hank Pelton was living near the Texas Slough in 1882. By the fall of 1884, Ole Peter Jensen, fisherman Hans Jensen, Andrew O. Anderson, William S. Thornton, John E. Matson, Jim Watts, and George U. Smith had settled there. These were the real pioneers of Burton.

The first important thing to do was to build a canal as water was important for the crops. This canal was part of the ditch that Burton uses today.

For a number of years the closest railroad was at Market Lake (Roberts). All the freight was hauled by teams and wagons to Market Lake and Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls). The hardest trials of these early settlers was to get enough to eat. They also had to find something to wear. Grain was at one time forty cents per one hundred pounds and potatoes were as low as twenty cents per one hundred pounds.

The first church house was built on the present site where the church house now stands. It was built of logs in the winter of 1886-87. It was twenty by thirty and twelve feet to the square. It was built of cottonwood logs with red pine and dirt for the roof. The floor was also red pine. It had four windows and a door. There were eleven benches, one cupboard, one stove, ten joints of pine, and a double desk. It stood on a piece of ground given for that purpose by John E. Matson. George U. Smith was the first bishop.



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The first school was held at the home of George U. Smith in 1886 with eleven pupils enrolled. Then it was moved to the new meeting house when it was completed. Later the Marretta school house was built on the Jack Smith farm and it was in use until a new school building was erected. The Marretta school house was built in 1893. It was named for Mary Etta Carter whose father, A. M. Carter, was one of the communities leading citizens. The building was twenty by thirty feet made of logs with only one room.

This building was used for fourteen years until the big yellow school was built where the burton school now stands. There was also a school built in the Independence area about where Byron Jensen's home now stands.

The statistical report of the church in 1887 shows that two hundred nine acres of land was under cultivation in Burton.

There were a lot of hardships incurred by the pioneers. The least of these was the burning down of the grist mill in Rexburg. this meant that grain had to be ground in hand mills in order to have flour.

A post office was opened in Burton at the Leonard Smith place in 1890.

In 1897 the first rocks were hauled for the new meeting house. The foundation was laid the same year. This building served the community until 1954.

In 1911 due to the splendid efforts of Bishop Conrad Walz, a band was organized in the community. Three hundred dollars was collected to buy instruments for the seventeen band members. The band became the main attraction of parades on the 4th and 24th of July.

In 1911 the lot east of the meeting house was used for a ball park and plans were made for the building of an amusement hall on the lot north of the church. This was completed in 1912 and a lot of good times were had in this hall by old and young alike. Many dances and home talent plays were given here. About 1914 there were four hundred and eighty in the community.

On March 15, 1902, the Burton Ward was divided. The southern part of Burton was organized into the Independence Ward. A number of non-Mormons had located in the area in the 1880's. They were not connected with the Church and indicated their position by naming their area Independence.

The first meetings of the Independence Ward were held in the one room log school house which was located where the Independence brick school stood. The men of the area took their teams that first summer and hauled logs from the timber to the saw mill to be made into lumber for the new building. They also hauled sandstone which was used in the foundation and to line the walls. The work on the building was done almost entirely by the members of the ward.

The first of these is the fact that the  
country is not a democracy. It is a  
dictatorship. The government is  
run by a few men who are  
interested in their own power and  
wealth. They are not interested in  
the welfare of the people.

The second of these is the fact that  
the country is not a united nation.  
There are many different groups  
of people living in the country.  
They are not united by a common  
purpose or a common interest.

The third of these is the fact that  
the country is not a modern nation.  
It is a backward nation. It has  
no modern industry. It has no  
modern science. It has no modern  
education.

The fourth of these is the fact that  
the country is not a free nation.  
It is a slave nation. The people  
are not free to think and to  
act as they please. They are  
controlled by the government.

The fifth of these is the fact that  
the country is not a happy nation.  
The people are not happy. They  
are poor and they are suffering.  
They are not free to live as they  
please.

The sixth of these is the fact that  
the country is not a strong nation.  
It is a weak nation. It has no  
power. It is not respected by  
other nations.

The seventh of these is the fact that  
the country is not a civilized nation.  
It is a barbaric nation. The  
people are not civilized. They  
are not educated. They are not  
cultured.



The two areas were merged back into one ward on February 8, 1953. It was to be known as the Burton-Independence Ward. The name was later changed to the Rexburg 7th Ward. The ward then had a population of five hundred eighty-six members. A new chapel was needed. Plans went forward immediately for the construction of such a building. The rock church was torn down. On June 1, 1954, ground breaking and construction began. Trees were removed and the excavation was started.

It was thought at the time of the dedication of the new building in 1956 that it was big enough to accommodate its members for years. The population grew rapidly and in 1975 plans were made to remodel the chapel. While it was being repaired the people of Burton shared the Hibbard Ward building.

The last division of the Burton area was made in 1979. This time the line division was made diagonally so that each ward had some of Burton and some of Independence.

## THE NORTH FORK FERRY

Mr. T. Leonard Smith has gathered history in the Burton area for many years. His efforts are recognized as he is one of a few who are interested in preserving this heritage of this area. We applaud him as we reproduce his story of the above ferry here.

Thomas E. Ricks first came to the Snake River Fork country in company with William B. Preston and John R. Poole. They crossed the South Fork of the Snake River in a sleigh on January 9, 1883. After locating the Rexburg townsite they returned to the Poole homestead in Menan, Idaho. To do this they had to cross the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. They thus knew the need for a better crossing place or a ferry.

Many of the pioneers coming to Rexburg came in February and crossed the river on the ice. The men of the group paid special attention to the crossing areas as they knew that when the ice went out the crossings would be more difficult. The great width of the river no doubt enabled them to visualize the difficulties such mighty streams as the North and South Forks would present to the teamsters after the spring break-up. The streams in pioneer days were much larger than they are now due to irrigation and storage. The entire run off from both forks passed into the main channel at Cedar Buttes and then continued on to the Pacific Ocean.

The bank along the North Fork of the Snake River was relatively high and mossy as was the bottom of the river. In fact there was only one point in this area practical for fording. This was the Eagle Nest Ford which is a mile east of the present Parker bridge. This was too far for people heading for Rexburg to travel. So President Ricks, Francis C. Gunnell, and Henry Flamm decided to build a ferry across the river directly west of Rexburg.



Willard Ricks was sent to Market Lake to get the necessary lumber milled by William F. Rigby in Beaver Canyon. The lumber would be used to build the ferry and the approaches to the river on both sides.

John Dalling and Peter Flamm began to work on the ferry boat on March 19, 1883, and by the 26th it was completed. On that day it made its maiden voyage. This was the first ferry built in the Upper Snake River Valley. There was a ford three hundred yards below the ferry which was used by empty or lightly loaded outfits in low water season.

The boat was about twenty by thirty feet with a two foot railing on each side and a folding apron on each end. This folding apron doubled back onto the respective approaches. The boat accommodated one team and wagon and it plied about two rods north of the present bridge.

Caleb Flamm operated the ferry and charged seventy-five cents for the service. He had a cabin on the west side where his family lived during the ferrying season. That season lasted until the river froze usually from December to March.

Probably the first Utah outfit to cross on the ferry was driven by Hans C. Jensen and his wife, Helena Flamm Jensen, together with Henry Flamm, Sr. and his son Henry Flamm Jr. and his daughter Eliza. They had two wagons drawn by six horses.

Helena and Eliza were fearful of the ferry's behavior so they got out of the first wagon and watched it cross before entering the deck. A ferry operator had not been provided and as the ferry was on the east bank they had to wait until Bob Tarter came from his cabin several hundred yards away to render this service. If the ladies had known Mr. Tarter's record of lawlessness their discomfort would have been still greater. Tarter was a cutthroat, horse rustler, robber, and woman chaser.

Thousands of colonists crossed this ferry during the seven years of its operation from 1883 to 1890. People came with horses, mules, and even oxen. The latter were used when William Bell brought the Rigby sawmill into the valley. The beasts became unmanageable and jumped out of the ferry tipping it over. The wagon on board deposited its load (the sawmill) into the stream. The tank floated along in the river about three quarters of a mile where it was snaked out. Otherwise the ferry functioned smoothly and although women were generally frightened in passage, the customers were given satisfaction.

The old ferry witnessed romance. Young married folks crossed it in high hopes for a future homestead. Elderly people entrusted all of their earthly possessions to its caretaker. It was here where Tommy McGrow courted fifteen year old Ella Flamm and won her although he was nearly half a century her senior. One young man had arranged to meet and marry his bride in Rexburg. He arrived at the ferry on horseback and was ferried across. However the flood tide was on and he found the swale between the river and Carter's house was under water. Undaunted he perched himself upon his horse like a crow on a fence and pressed on. Before he was through his wedding finery was all spotted and smeared but the bride was still willing.

William F. Buckley Jr. in 1962, the year  
after he had been elected to the  
Senate.

and by the time he was elected to the  
Senate, he had been in the  
Senate for 10 years.

For the first time in his life, he  
found himself in a position of  
power.

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Horse rustlers brought their stolen booty across and posses followed upon their trails. Polygamists and federal lawmen played hide and seek hereabouts. Cowboys, trappers, prospectors, dudes, church leaders, apostles, Indians, and squaw men were a part of this colorful procession. All were on an equal footing before the ferry master. For each his service was the same.

In 1890 the Bingham County Commissioners gave out a contract for a bridge at the site of the ferry. Fueben H. Row built a splendid three span pier bridge. It was replaced when the highway was built to connect Highway 33 and was replaced again after the Teton Flood of 1976.

### Bingham County Commission Minutes

1 June, 1885

On motion the petition of Flamm and Co. to run Ferry at Rexburg was granted and with rates of toll as follows.

One wagon and Span	.75 cents
Each extra span	.25 "
Loose Stock	.10 "
Horseman	.25 "
Footman	.15 "
License	\$50.00 upon payment of license

The Board reassembled at 2 p.m. All members present. The signing of the bonds was completed. The clerk was requested to notify Flam & Co. of Rexburg that they were entitled to bounds not to exceed two miles on each side of their ferry provided that nothing contained therein shall be so construed as to prevent any person crossing or passing over any place or stream within such bounds free of charge at certain seasons of the year when it shall not be necessary to use such boundary on Ferry.

### MONUMENT-NORTH FORK FERRY

This article was compiled by T. Leonard Smith and is the description of the planning, development, and erecting of the monument at the site of the North Fork Ferry of the Snake River.

About the year 1930 a Boy Scout Troop committee began thinking the boys should do their part in marking a historic spot. The old Ferry site was decided on. It took a few

These studies have shown that the  
polymerization of monomers in the presence of  
catalysts is a complex process involving  
several steps.

In the first step, the monomer is  
activated by the catalyst, forming a  
reactive intermediate. This intermediate  
then reacts with the monomer to form the  
polymer.

The rate of polymerization is  
dependent on the concentration of the  
monomer and the catalyst. The  
activation energy of the reaction is  
also an important factor. The  
polymerization is exothermic, and the  
heat released can be used to drive the  
reaction.

The polymerization of monomers in the  
presence of catalysts is a complex  
process involving several steps. The  
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years for the plans to take shape and in the winter of 1934-5 a committee of three, Harry R. Machen, Robert T. Stowers, and Wilford Jensen, was appointed to investigate the different types of monuments and report their findings.

They looked at the cement structure at the Idaho Industrial School to see how it might be done. The committee decided to build a cement monument about four and one-fourth feet square at the base and about eight and one-half feet high.

A miniature model was made and exhibited at a Priesthood celebration held on the banks of the river near where the monument now stands. After a short service they moved on to explore the two buttes to the southwest and the Indian writing on the Great Castle Rock on the east side of the large butte. The impact of the meeting was that the decision was made to continue with the erection of the monument and to have a celebration of its completion in August or September.

Summer activities of farming delayed the construction until the subject surfaced again in March of 1936. At this time Bishop James Johnson expressed his feelings that a lava shaft may be more fitting for the surroundings than the cement. This was unanimously approved as long as a suitable rock could be found. The suitable rock was found on the side of the mountains directly across the ravine from the William Squires dugway east of the Archer Ward. The dugway is right under a large wall of lava rock.

The rock lay flat like a table resting on a heap of smaller rocks with the side next to the mount and slightly covered with soil. It appeared to have served for ages as an open air pavilion dance hall for the rock chucks. It was about eight feet by thirteen and one-half feet by twenty-six inches deep.

Another meeting of the committee was very enthusiastic as the proper rock had been found. There was some doubt apparent as to their ability to quarry and load such a rock. In June, 1937, a group arrived at the rock with tools and a load of bird eye poles to use for skids. It took a whole day but by sundown the rock was blocked on Harold E. Johnson's one and one half ton truck.

There was a lot of speculation regarding the weight of the rock. Guesses ranged from four to eight thousand pounds. It was weighed at the Midland elevator the following morning and was found to be eight thousand, eight hundred and five pounds. At one o'clock that day it was unloaded at its present location. A block and tackle were required to unload it.

It was decided to hold a celebration on the 21st of August to dedicate the monument. This day was the fiftieth anniversary of the organizing of the Burton Ward. It was decided that the public should be invited to the program.

One hundred eighty four man hours were spent in raising the shaft and placing the foundation. The Utah Trails and Landmarks Association was contacted to obtain a bronze inscription plaque for the monument. They donated the plaque to the relief of the committee as it was estimated to cost from forty to one hundred dollars.

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Many items kept the committee busy during the next few weeks. The Primary planned a parade of pets, buggies, mules, goats, and other animals on a variety of vehicles. A group of Trail Builder boys from the Hibbard Ward represented Indians.

A large bowery was built which would seat about four hundred people. It was built on the bank of the river downstream where the hill drops off the low ground. A well was driven there and a pump installed to insure plenty of pure cold water for a fountain.



Bowery of Ferry

On the evening of August 20 a scout camporee was held. It was sponsored by the Teton Peaks Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Among those present were troops from Hibbard, Salem, two Burton troops, and others from Idaho Falls, Teton City, and Rexburg. The scouts arrived about 3:00 p.m. to be greeted by the Stars and Stripes flying from a fifty foot flag pole. A huge bonfire was built just west of the bowery and several hundred people came from near by communities to attend the evenings activities. There were thrilling pioneer stories told by men who lived them. The scene was beautiful with a full moon shining on the river.

The next day was simply perfect. The sky was clear with a light wind keeping the day from being too hot. The scouts were roused as a bugle sounded at sunrise followed by a flag raising ceremony.

At 8:00 a.m. the scouts and their leaders went to visit the old Red and Roxie hideout. Part of their old fireplace and some of the shelves out in the sand rock still remain. The place is located at the northeast corner of the south butte, on the south of a small ledge near the river. The hideout was built on the south side at the west end of a small ledge.

From here the group climbed half way up the big butte. There they were shown the great horseshoe bend just across the river. They could see the natural pasture formed there. Here

Energy is the ability to do work. It is a scalar quantity and is measured in Joules (J). The SI unit of energy is the Joule (J). Energy can be stored or transferred. It can be converted from one form to another. The total energy of a system is conserved.

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The energy of a system is conserved. The total energy of a system is the sum of the kinetic energy and the potential energy. The kinetic energy is the energy of motion, and the potential energy is the energy of position. The total energy of a system is constant, and it can be converted from one form to another. The total energy of a system is conserved.

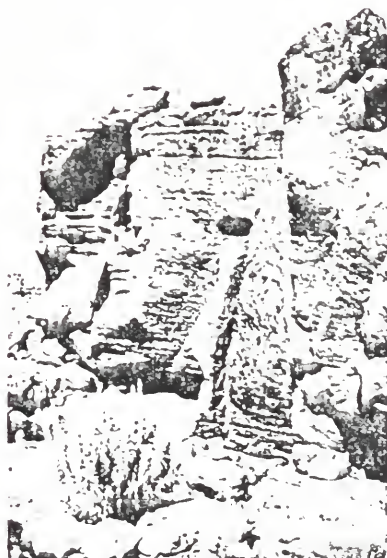
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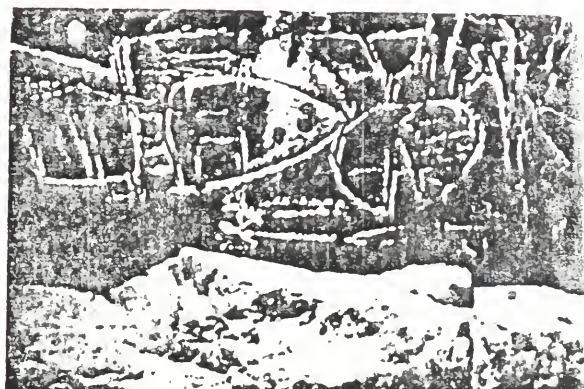
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the stolen horses were confined until their brands could be changed sufficiently to move them on to another substation.



Red and Roxy's Hideout

Now the group moved down the slope to the great Castle Rock. It was covered with many inscriptions of Indian writings at that time. They then returned to their camp.



Indian Writings on the North Butte

As they returned the camp had taken on the look of a city as many more people had come in for the celebration. Hundreds of people were present and cars were lined up for hundreds of feet.

The program started with the parade. It had about seventy-five entries. It had been announced that Governor Barzilla W. Clark would be present but a telegram the night before said that he could not come but the mayor of Pocatello would represent him. The





mayor arrived with the police chief in a police car with a loudspeaker on top. It was used throughout the day to let people know what was happening.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting was called to order in the bowery. It was estimated that about five hundred people were seated there. Seated on the stage were about thirty pioneers who had crossed the ferry. Among these people was Mrs. Hans C. Jensen, who was credited as being the first woman to cross the ferry.

The Madison High School band played several selections before the meeting and during the remainder of the program. The speakers were Professor M. D. Beal (known as Sam Beal) of Ricks College. Bishop J. A. Johnson of the Burton Ward spoke and so did Mayor Terrell of Pocatello. All the speakers dwelt on pioneer life and referred to the many places of historic interest which were close around the monument. The meeting ended near noon.

After lunch a procession of about eighty cars crossed the river and went north to the grave of Jenny Leigh and her children. She was the wife of the first permanent settler in the country, Richard Leigh. Jenny and her children died of small pox in 1876 and their graves were marked with a cement curbing with a fence. For the day flowers had been placed around the marker. A short but impressive ceremony was held at the grave site.

Back at the ferry monument the crowd was entertained until 4:30 p.m. with a calf rodeo. There was some very good riding done and skill as to handling the animals exhibited by the younger riders. Motor boat rides were being taken up and down the river all day long.

The dedication took place at a 4:30 p.m. program. The crowd gathered at the bower and they waited for four men who were expected to come from Salt Lake City. By 5:15 p.m. they had not arrived and it was decided to proceed with a program and leave the dedication out until later. The people formed two large circles around the monument. Then the car from Utah arrived. They did not have the plaque as it had been shipped by motor lines instead of railroad express.

The Utah men were Church leaders who had come to express their feelings with regard to the pioneers of the area. Each of the four men from Utah bore very strong testimonies and paid high tributes to the pioneers. The men were John D. Giles, Andrew Jensen (assistant Church Historian), Dr. Giroge W. Middleton, and Joseph L. Wirthlin. President Peter J. Ricks and Bishop James A. Johnson also spoke and paid high tributes to the pioneers.

At the close of the meeting the crowd again assembled at the monument. Edna Beattie, Vira Hall, Juliet Jensen, and Doloris Johnson were the four young ladies chosen to unveil the monument. They were all dressed in long white dresses. After the unveiling Brother Andrew Jensen stood with his back to the monument and faced the river to the east to offer the dedicatory prayer.





Dignitaries at the Marker  
Andrew Jensen is at the Left

"I am sure all who heard will long remember the blessing evoked on the remaining pioneers and the descendants of all who had so nobly carried on to build this great empire of common wealth in this wonderful land, where God had called them more than fifty years ago. You can guess the feeling and spirit of those who a few short month before, had voted to build or rather erect an ever enduring shaft rather than a less enduring but easier erected monument. Then we heard Brother Jensen pronounce a blessing on the structure that it should stand unmoved until the time of the restitution of all things when the lamb and the lion should lay down together. And that during the intervening time all who passed and beheld, should be caused to reflect on the righteous principles which prompted their lives, and who are here remembered and God's wishes for his earthly children."

After the dedication the crowd soon dispersed. The Brethren from Salt Lake City left for Idaho Falls where they expected to spend the night. The jolly crowd of dancers at the hall that night closed the second day of the celebration. In the center of the room hung a miniature log cabin representing the first meeting house of the Burton Ward. All enjoyed the party very much.

For names of the committee or more information concerning this erection and dedication of the North Fork Ferry monument consult the manuscript by T. Leonard Smith that is located in the library of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society in the Teton Flood Museum.



## CHAPTER 2

### PARKER, IDAHO

The following information was given to the library of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society by Carrie Davis of Fremont County. Mrs. Davis is one of the core of Eastern Idaho historians who have taken responsibility for making sure that the history is preserved for future generations. The following is an edited version of a class project of the 1962 Genealogical Class of the L.D.S. Parker Ward. The teacher was Helen C. Ferney. The research and the full document can be viewed at the historical society library in the Teton Flood Museum in Rexburg.

This first story came under the pen and authorship of Martha Remington as she told of her remembrances.

The part of the country now included in Parker Ward was first visited by Stephen Winegar and two others from Randolph, Rich County, Utah. They came in July, 1879 with a view of locating farms and ranches on the north side of the Henry's Fork (North Fork) of the Snake River. After a few days of exploring the country they returned to Utah.

In the fall, Mr. Winegar came back with four of his sons and commenced to put up hay and make improvements. They erected the first building by September 1, 1879, on the bottom land near the river at a point three miles southwest of the present townsite. Two other houses were erected about the same time.

Three families spent the winter at the settlement. During the winter the river froze over and the water rose so high that it flooded the flat where two of the houses were built. Consequently the little colony, consisting of about twenty souls, were obliged to spend part of the winter in the only house left on dry ground. The settlers lost nearly all their stock as the winter was so severe.

In 1880 other settlers arrived and in 1881 Wyman M. Parker and others moved in with their families from Morgan County, Utah. These families located on the quarter sections adjoining those taken up by the first settlers.

The new settlement was first known as Garden Grove, which name it retained until the application for a post office was made. The post office department in Washington D. C. objected to the name. A meeting of citizens was subsequently called in the spring of 1880 and the name of 'Egin' was adopted. Egin was an Indian name signifying 'cold' and

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was suggested by the fact that it was the coldest day of the season on which the meeting was held. The Egin post office was opened July 1, 1880, with A. F. Parker as the Postmaster.

On November 28, 1881, a meeting was held at the house of Stephen Winegar and was attended by M. M. Merrill of the Cache Stake Presidency, William D. Hendricks of Logan, Utah, and John R. Poole. The little colony was organized into a branch of the L.D.S. Church with Wyman M. Parker as the presiding priest. This branch was named after Parker and was to include all the saints residing at Egin, Camas, and Market Lake. In fact all the Saints living on the north and west side of the Snake River were included...A Sunday School was organized on January 8, 1882.

In June, 1883, Bishop L. W. Hardy, President William B. Preston, and Thomas E. Ricks visited the area. They selected the Parker townsite and named it in honor of Wyman M. Parker.

On January 1, 1884, Thomas G. Parker was accidentally shot and killed by his brother-in-law, Moroni Smith, a young lad ten years old. He was buried on the 4th of January. This first death, on New Year's Day, in the new settlement cast a gloom over the whole population.

On June 11, 1884, at a meeting held at Egin and attended by Apostles Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant, President Thomas E. Ricks, and others, the Parker Branch was organized into a ward with Wyman M. Parker as the first Bishop. Francis Rawson became his first counselor and Arnold D. Miller was the second counselor. The ward at that time consisted of one hundred eighty-two members.

Water was important to the survival of the community. The Egin Canal was commenced in the fall of 1879 and finished in June, 1883. This canal supplied most of the irrigation water for the whole area. The canal taps the river just above the bridge at St. Anthony.

About this time Bishop Parker was digging a well for family use and had already reached a depth of eighty-four feet without any prospect of water. While some of the visiting brethren were joking with Bishop Parker about his dry well, Bishop Hardy stepped up, tapped Parker on the shoulder, and declared that in a short time he would have plenty of water in his well. The prediction was fulfilled two days later when, without striking another lick, the well was found filling up with a clear, pure stream. There was plenty of water in it after that.

A place of many memories and much interest for nearly every person that ever lived in Parker during the last decade was the Amusement Hall. It was originally a school house at New Hope, just north of St. Anthony. It was moved to Parker in two sections and placed on the church property about one block south of the chapel. A center section was added to the two parts making a building one hundred feet long and twenty-feet wide. The large frame building was painted white and had three or four wooden steps leading to its entrance.

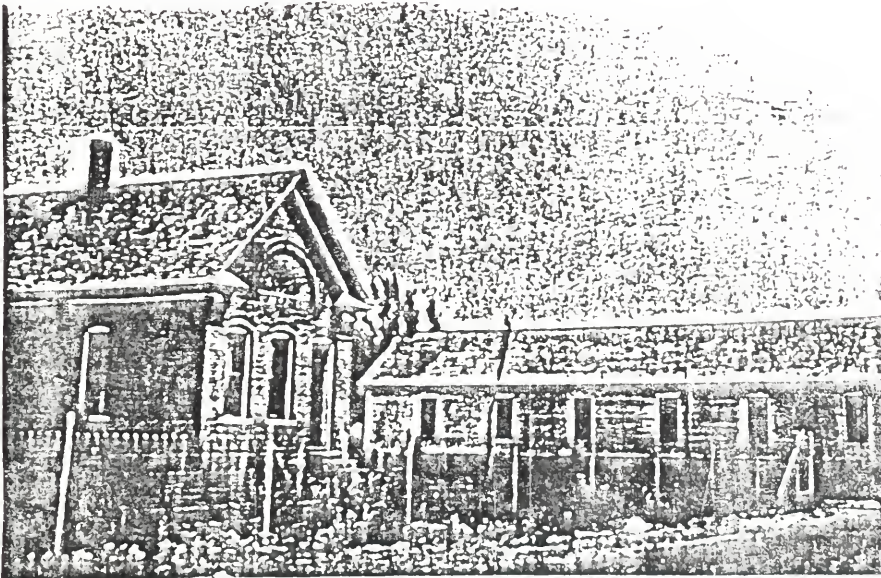


Inside the building on the west end were tiers of bleacher seats extending from the floor to the ceiling. The stage was on the east end which was equipped with painted props and suitable curtains to accommodate the many types of entertainment held there. Two stoves at each end kept the building warm. Wooden benches lined each side of the wall. When a show was staged the benches were moved onto the floor. They were moved back against the walls when dances were held.

It was in the Amusement Hall that Parker's traditional Santa Claus program originated. How excited the children became when reports were announced that Santa had been seen at West Yellowstone, then Mack's Inn, then circling Marysville and Chester, and finally at St. Anthony. The children were in a state of high fever and the parents in a condition of shock. When Santa Claus made his grand entry, the excitement nearly raised the roof.

There were many basket parties held there. The girls would decorate a basket with flowers, ribbons, and crepe paper. The basket would then be auctioned off to the highest bidders. The most attractive basket generally brought the highest price unless the identity of the owner could be established. This proved to be a good money making scheme.

Many Eighth Grade graduation exercises were held in the hall, as well as, activities of auxiliary organizations. Many well known traveling shows came to Parker to perform. Some of them were the Farnsworth Road Shows, the Glendora Players, and the Taylor Players. Exchange entertainments came from other towns. Some of the plays included "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "East Lynn," "Charley's Aunt," and "Cherry Blossoms."



Tithing Office-Amusement Hall





The Amusement Hall was the central gathering place for the Parker Boy Scout winter carnival which was started by Scoutmaster Sidney Hanks. For many years the annual event was out of door sports in front of the hall while boxing acts and dancing were held within the building. Many people came from other towns.

When the new chapel and recreation hall was built the Amusement Hall was sold in three pieces. The center went to Harold Nagle for a machine shop. The stage went to B. T. Remington for a barn. Eunice Mineer took the third section and made a very attractive home of it.

The tithing office was built when Daniel G. Miller was Bishop. It stood between the church and the Amusement Hall and was used for a Bishop's Office and storage for articles such as butter, fruit, and other items given as tithing. Priesthood, genealogy, and religion classes were also held there.

The next information on celebrations in Parker was written by Charles Davenport.

The Parker City park is located on the west side of the school grounds. It was planned and built by the village board with Jed Earl as chairman in cooperation with the school trustees and many civic minded citizens who were willing to donate their time to the project.

A neat planting of fast growing trees was set out on about three-fourths of an acre of land. In a very short time these trees were large enough to shade the entire area, support several swings, and provide facilities for the children of the town to do a lot of 'monkey business.' This spot became very popular for the Fourth of July celebrations where people could enjoy their lunch and afternoon sports at the same time.

The Fourth of July was always a highlight of the year for there was the cannon salute at sunrise, a parade, and Mason's band. There was usually a speaker from Salt Lake City. Dr. Hatch from Idaho Falls was always a popular speaker. The Tout family could be counted on for outstanding music.

The central location of Parker in what was known as Egin Bench drew people from many miles around. A baseball game with a team from a nearby town generally highlighted the sports activities. There were always foot races for the young and old, broad jumping, pole vaulting, and wrestling matches.

There was the old fashioned rodeo with no corrals or chutes. The bronco was dragged in snubbed to another horse. A couple of husky men would twist his ears while a couple more held his tail while he was saddled for the rider to mount. Then he was turned loose to scatter the crowd and bring about general chaos. George Miller was there on old 'Buckskin' to take him in tow before anyone could get into trouble.

In 1902 a summer snowstorm drove the crowd into the chapel where the Declaration of Independence was read to them for entertainment.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of fresh air. It was a relief after being cooped up in the car for so long. The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were singing. It felt like I had been transported to a different world.

As I walked along the path, I noticed a small stream flowing gently. The water was clear and cool. I stopped for a moment to drink some. It tasted so good. I had never before. The sound of the water flowing was so soothing. It made me feel like I was in a peaceful place.

The path led me to a small clearing. In the center of the clearing was a large tree. The tree was old and its branches were spread wide. I sat down under the tree and looked up at the sky. The sky was a deep blue with a few white clouds. It was so beautiful. I had never before.

I stayed in the clearing for a while. I watched the birds fly around the tree. I listened to the sound of the water flowing. I felt like I was in a magical place. I had never before. The sun was still shining brightly, and the birds were still singing. It felt like I was in a different world.

I stood up and walked towards the stream. I looked down at the water. It was so clear. I could see the bottom of the stream. There were small stones and pebbles. The water was so cool. I drank some more. It tasted so good. I had never before.

I walked along the path for a while. I noticed a small stream flowing gently. The water was clear and cool. I stopped for a moment to drink some. It tasted so good. I had never before. The sound of the water flowing was so soothing. It made me feel like I was in a peaceful place.

The path led me to a small clearing. In the center of the clearing was a large tree. The tree was old and its branches were spread wide. I sat down under the tree and looked up at the sky. The sky was a deep blue with a few white clouds. It was so beautiful. I had never before.

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At one of the Fourth of July celebrations, when the sugar beet industry was at its height, there were many Japanese laborers present. A Japanese wrestling match was held with eight to ten of them participating. For a mat they used a ring about sixteen feet across on which was placed some three inches of dry sand. Two men would get in the center of the mat of sand and try to put the other off the mat. When one was thrown off another would jump in and take his place. The one who threw the most men off the mat was the winner. Once when a match was finished one of the Japanese men challenged a white man to wrestle. Walter Kelley went in and threw the challenger off the mat.



Juniper Special

Albert Grover continues this history of Parker with the following information.

The Fourth of July celebration of 1913 featured an outstanding parade. One of the main attractions was the "Juniper Special," built and entered in the parade by several dry farmers. This vehicle traveled on its own power, was started with oats and was buggy whip propelled. This same group of dry farmers staged a party each winter called the "Dry Farmer's" party. It was a day long event with an afternoon banquet and a dance at night. It is said that many people homesteaded on the lava rock beds in order to be eligible to attend this party.

The dry farmers were plagued with the shifting sand on the road. Some of them put straw on it for traction. This old straw road forms the base of the present 'red road' to Kilgore.

One of Parker's recreational projects was the equipping of the school grounds with flood lights for evening sports such as ball games and posse riding. Residents were proud of the posse where teenage boys and their fathers rode together. All riding was done in the evening following long hours in the fields. Sometimes wives and mothers joined the group.

As one of the most important of the world's  
height, there are many things to be seen  
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the most important of these is the fact that  
we are not only in a world of things, but  
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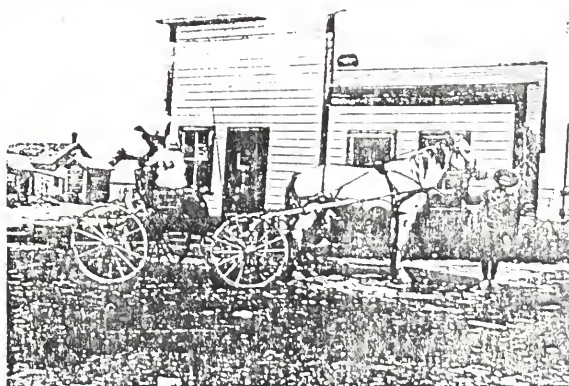
The school tennis court led a double life. Here on a summer evening may be seen the graceful forms of dancers swaying to the rhythm of gay music as they 'allemande left,' 'sashay all,' and 'promenade' through the many changes of a square dance.

One of the first stores was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Davenport. It occupied part of their home and was located on the place now known as the George Adams farm. It was north of the Egin Canal. This store was started in 1888 and was soon turned over to their son. His son built a new building. They hauled freight to Dillon, Montana, and traded there for merchandise for the store. It continued until 1894.

About this time another store was established. It was the Parker Co-op and was located just east of the Charles Foster home close to the west bank of the present Union Canal. A group of men owned this store. This store burned about 1905.

Frank Bramwell owned one hundred sixty acres west of the highway in Parker. He owned a store in the southeast corner of the lot. In 1900 Mr. Claus Carlson came to this part of the country from Oakley, Idaho, and bought the store. He was very successful in the business until he died in 1905.

William Remington operated the Carlson Store for several years. Jed Early built a brick store which he and his son, Gene, operated. They sold it to Vernessa Nagle. J. G. Millward purchased it from Vernessa. He later sold it to Dan Neville who built the new cinder block store.



Old Time Parker Business Building

Several confectioneries were established in the town over the years. During 1947 Irvin Mace built the block building on the corner west of the church. In 1921 the Eli Lee building was a store. It was later used for a store and a postoffice.

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About 1895 to 1912 Henry Jackson and Ed Jones operated a meat market. A traveling meat market at one time came to Parker from St. Anthony. Housewives scampered out front when they heard the meat man's bell. Some tried to barter eggs for the meat.

Parker once boasted a hat shop owned by Susan Armstrong. Later Lizzie Remington opened a millinery shop in her home.

The rest of this story of Parker was compiled by Vernessa Nagle.

The people of Parker have received their mail by many means. First it was brought from Market Lake by wagon and then carried to the postoffice which was on what is now the Frank Mason place. The first mail carriers were Wilrose and Lionel Parker. Later the office was operated by Mrs. Georgiana McMinn in her home which is now the Dave Browning residence. Before the Parker townsite was established, A. F. Parker served as postmaster of the Egin Post Office which opened July 1, 1880.

There were several postal workers in Parker before Eli Lee took over the postoffice and moved it into his building. He later sold the place and moved the office into the home now occupied by Agnes Remington. It was here that Elva Beddes worked to 'learn the ropes.' About three years later she purchased the old Eli Lee building and received permission to move the postoffice there. She probably had the mail longer than anyone else as she served as the postmaster for thirty years.

The soil on the Egin Bench was well adapted to growing potatoes. As early as 1900 potatoes were planted there. At first planting was done by plowing a furrow and dropping the seed by hand. At harvest the potatoes were plowed out and gathered by hand. D. G. Miller marketed his potatoes first at Market lake. Later growers hauled their wagon loads of potatoes to Idaho Falls.

With the arrival of the Wright Brothers and O. W. Norville, potato growing was given a new impetus. They grew seed for areas further south. Norville and Wright built potato cellars at Parker, Heman, Egin, and Plano.

There is much more to the story of potatoes in the Parker area but space does limit what can be put into this story. The rest of the information is in the library at the museum.

The information on the church and schools was compiled by Eunice Mineer.

The first meetinghouse was built in the winter of 1882-83 and the first meeting was held in it January 7, 1883. It was burned down through the work of an incendiary device in February, 1886. Steps were immediately taken to build a meeting house on the townsite to replace it. It was erected in about two weeks. The building that burned was a little one room log structure. It served as church, school, amusement hall, and etc. Since the A. D. Miller home was one of the largest in the community, meetings were held there for some time. The new building was three joints long with a dirt roof. It became a community center until 1894-95 when a new church was built.

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Old Parker Church

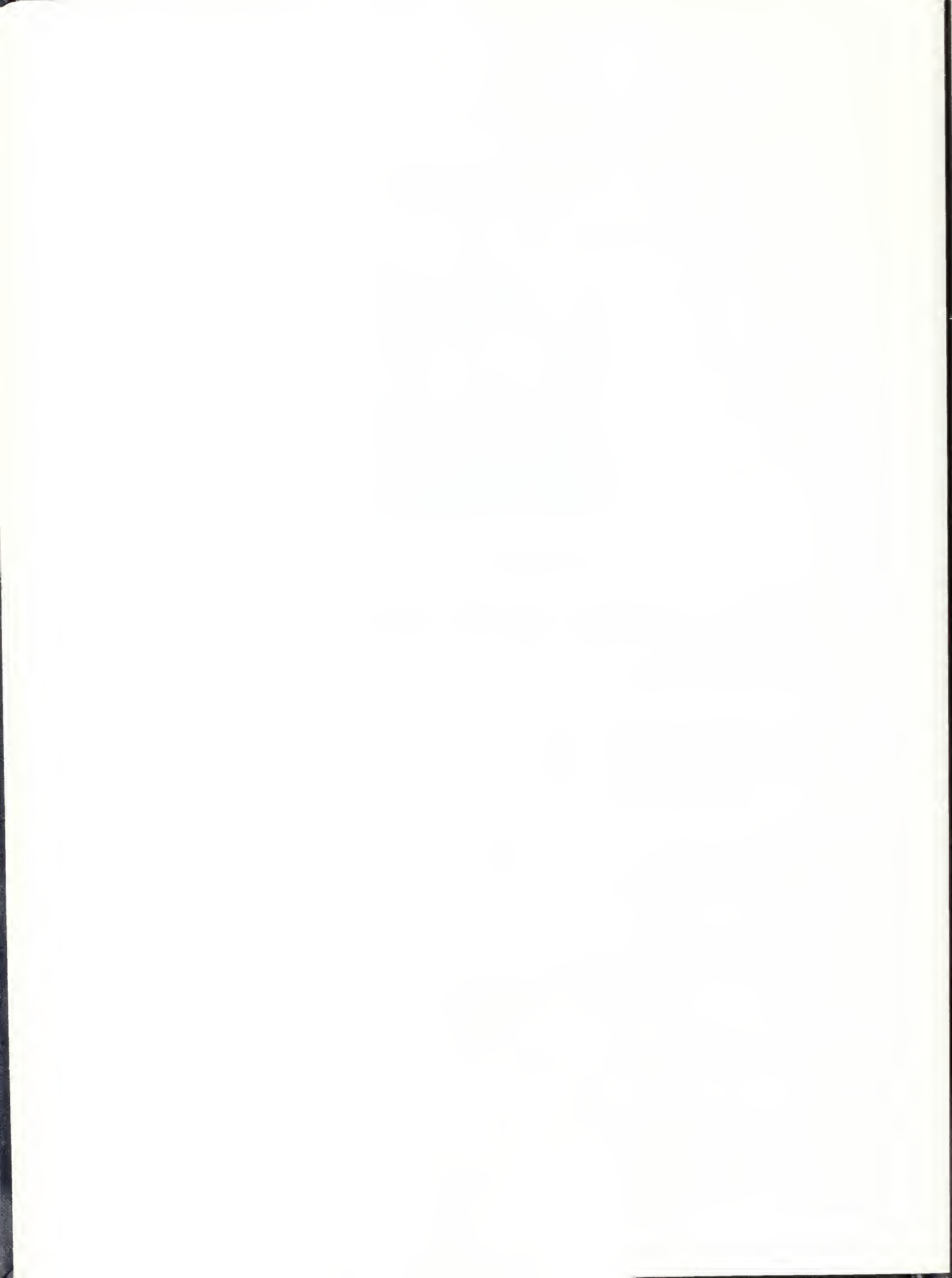
J. H. Mason taught school in the log building that was burned. After the burning of the building there were two schools one winter. Rhoda Hinman taught the Mormon school and Albert Heath taught the Gentile school. It was during this time that the Idaho Test Oath was used and a Mormon could not vote or act as a school trustee.

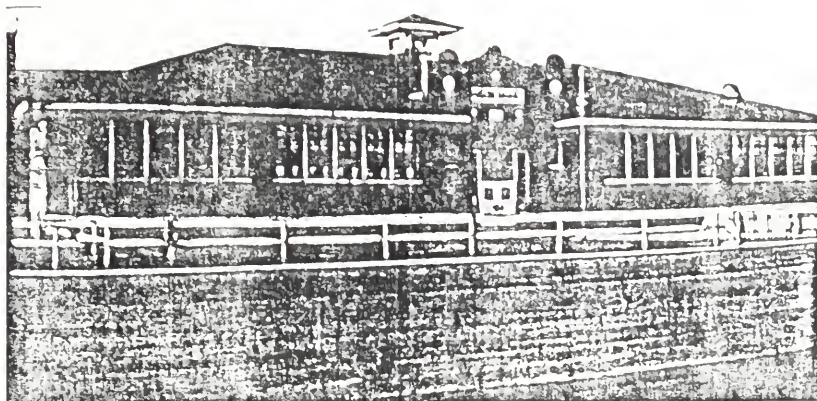
Another school was built on what we know today as the Heman corner. Ed Carbine, Bell Browning, and Frank Mason are believed to have taught in this school. Then there was a log school house on the northeast corner of the A. D. Miller farm. The log building was surrounded by an ample play ground.

Schools were sometimes conducted only about three months of the year. There were often discipline problems for not always did 'pupils' want to be 'students.' Jess Miller tells of the time Stan Miller backed his horse up to the low school window, tied a rope around its flanks, and then mounted the roof. Each time he pulled the rope the horse kicked. Soon the window was no more. Another time when the teacher thought he was studying Stan was up on the rafters of the attic making faces at the boys and girls. The teacher failed to locate the source of amusement for some time. When she did she kept him there all day striking his bare feet with her yard stick each time she moved about.

A school was held for a short time in the Ed Jones building which was later remodeled by Gene and Ester Earl for a home. Only the lower grades were taught there.

The two story gray frame building that was constructed on the site where the present school building now stands was a community achievement. The lower grades were on the first floor and the upper grades were on the second floor. The two upstairs rooms could be combined by raising a partition.





Parker School

THANKS TO THE GENEALOGICAL CLASS FOR ASSEMBLING THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEM THIS HISTORICAL DATA.

### ARCHER, LYMAN, AND VICINITY

There is no name on the manuscript from which the following information is taken. This unknown author has put many hours into assembling sixteen single spaced, typed pages which are summarized here.

The first pioneers who settled in this country with a desire to lead an ordered life came before Rexburg itself was founded. A couple of these early settlers were John and Albert Lyon, who settled on Lyman Creek in 1871. They brought the first cattle into the area and then continued their efforts in raising the stock. The first farmer was J. A. Berry, a brother-in-law of the Lyons. His family came to the Lyman area in 1878. He constructed a four room house at the mouth of the canyon on the south side of the creek. Bill Burns helped in the construction of the house. He was living up the river at the mouth of the canyon named after him.

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In 1885 a cowpuncher, Bill Ennis, gave Mr. Berry some wheat, oats, and potatoes which were planted. The yield was several bushels to the acre. It was cut with a scythe, threshed with a frail, and cleaned in the wind. The grain had just been harvested when a grasshopper storm occurred that lasted for several days.

When some of the settlers arrived at Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls) they asked about the Indian situation up the valley. They were assured that there were no permanent Indians in the upper valley as they only came through to hunt and fish. The Indians said, "It was too cold for them in the Upper Snake River Valley, being nine months winter and three months late fall." Some of the older people here say that the Round Top, a hill resembling a crater and level on top and called Fort Lyon, was a favorite meeting place of the Indians for their council meetings. The early settlers children found many arrowheads of many colors in the vicinity.



Round Top

By the fall of 1878 there were several settlers near the banks of the Snake River. These were settlers who depended on fish and wild game for subsistence as the real farming did not begin until 1884.

Supplies were brought in from Taylor Bridge at Eagle Rock usually twice a year. The trip was a two week journey and it was not profitable to go more than biannually. There was also the problem of crossing the river. There was no ferry and each had to find his own way across. Some had small boats tied to the side of the river to enable them to get across. A few would take their wagons apart and float the pieces across to be reassembled on the other side.





Mail was always important. It was delivered to the Higman's ranch on the south side of the river. People crossed the river about four times a year to pick up their mail and to send letters.

The summer of 1876 was extremely hot and dry. That fall a prairie fire began somewhere in the southern part of the valley. There was a sixty mile an hour wind blowing up the valley and the fire swept the entire country into Island Park and over to the Teton Valley in about forty-eight hours. The people saved their homes and part of the hay crop by plowing rings around them.



South Fork of Snake River  
Crossing The River Was Hazardous

These early pioneers suffered many other hardships. The winter of 1880 was particularly severe and much of their stock was lost. They did not know, in the contentment of their existence on the frontier, that a town was about to spring up in their midst.

The Mormon Church had discovered the Upper Snake River Valley in the 1880's and many were preparing to make the journey from Utah to this valley that had so much land available. Thomas E. Ricks and his party arrived in the area on January 9, 1883, and spent the night at the home of Theodore Lyman. Lyman had located on the creek named for him. The Ricks group looked over the soon to be Rexburg area and then returned to Utah to make a favorable report as to the feasibility of settling in this valley.



By the 11th of February there was a group in the Lyman area getting out trees for poles, posts, and fencing. Loads of logs were hauled from the Square Top Grove to where Rexburg now stands.

There was a fever now in the northern part of Utah to move to this newly opened part of Idaho. Covered wagons dotted the trail north out of Utah. By January, 1884, there were eight hundred and fifteen souls on the records of the Church in the valley.

Theodore K. Lyman and Silas Buckland settled on the Lyman Creek on opposite sides of the water. Silas built a house on the north side of the creek and later in the year after putting in his farm and garden went back to Utah and brought his wife and five children to the valley.

On June 28th of that year a small group of covered wagons wended their way over the dreary waste to the north and into the Upper Snake River Valley country. At Eagle Rock they crossed the Anderson bridge and paid the toll of \$1.25 per wagon. They arrived at the spot where Rexburg now stands and began looking around for a place to settle. After a while they selected a quarter section of ground on which the Briggs store was later built. They were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Arnold, their families, and Miss Mary Powell.

These early homes were small and so to keep them from being so crowded they would hang up the beds against the walls in the daytime. Many of them had to live in tents until they could get a house built. It was so cold and rainy in the fall of 1883 that there was great fear of sickness but by working together most were settled in by the time winter came. The walls of the houses were especially comforting to those with small children. Their was a fear that coyotes might snatch a child as they often came right into the yards to pick up chickens.

More settlers arrived in late October or early November. One of these pioneers was Lydia Foster. She brought flowers and some choice bulbs and shrub starts. She is credited with bringing in the first peonies to the valley. Whenever she moved she took her original starts with her but left others to brighten the yard for the next occupants. The Foster family settled on the bank of the river on what is now known as the Jack Stacey place. The Taylors and Bates families homesteaded near-by on the bank of the river. The first winter they lived in the wagon box with a canvass stretched between and over the top making a tent which was good size. There they had their stove and their living quarters and the wagon box was used for a bedroom and the storage space. This way they were as comfortable as possible until they were able to get out logs and build permanently.

When the house was built the space between the logs was filled with grass and paper. Then they pasted newspapers and magazines over the logs which made it quite homey. The walls were later whitewashed. Tall grass was pulled and spread over the floors. This was covered with burlap pieces. The gunnysacks were sewed together to make a carpet.

The first winter it snowed every day of January. Many thought they might be buried alive in the snow.





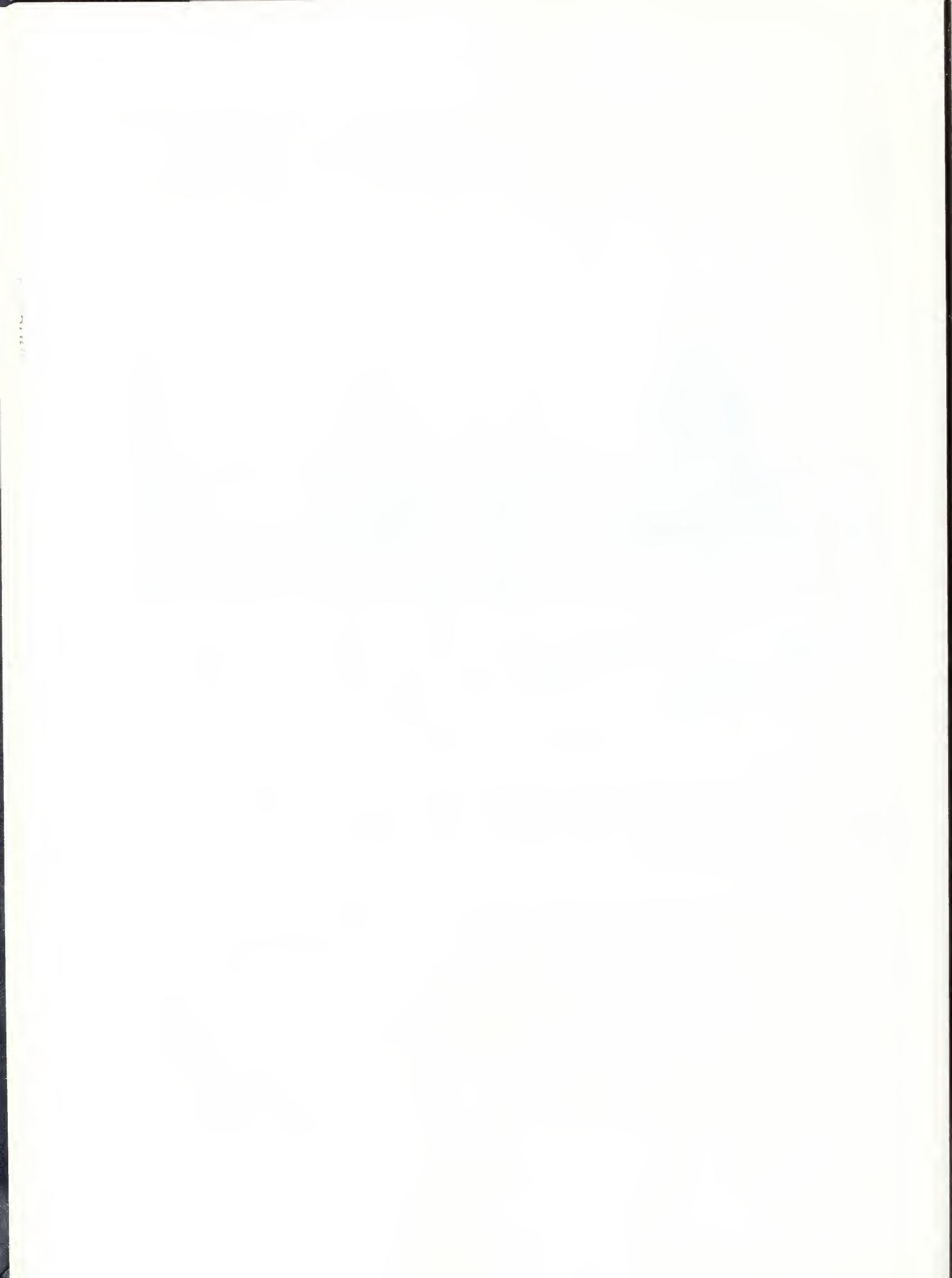
When the Foster home burned down their child, Minnie, died. She was buried in the fields of the old Detrich place. Two more graves joined this first one in the next few years. This early cemetery was located east of the railroad tracks on the old John Taylor farm. The graves were marked by a little pole fence around them so the people would know where they were.



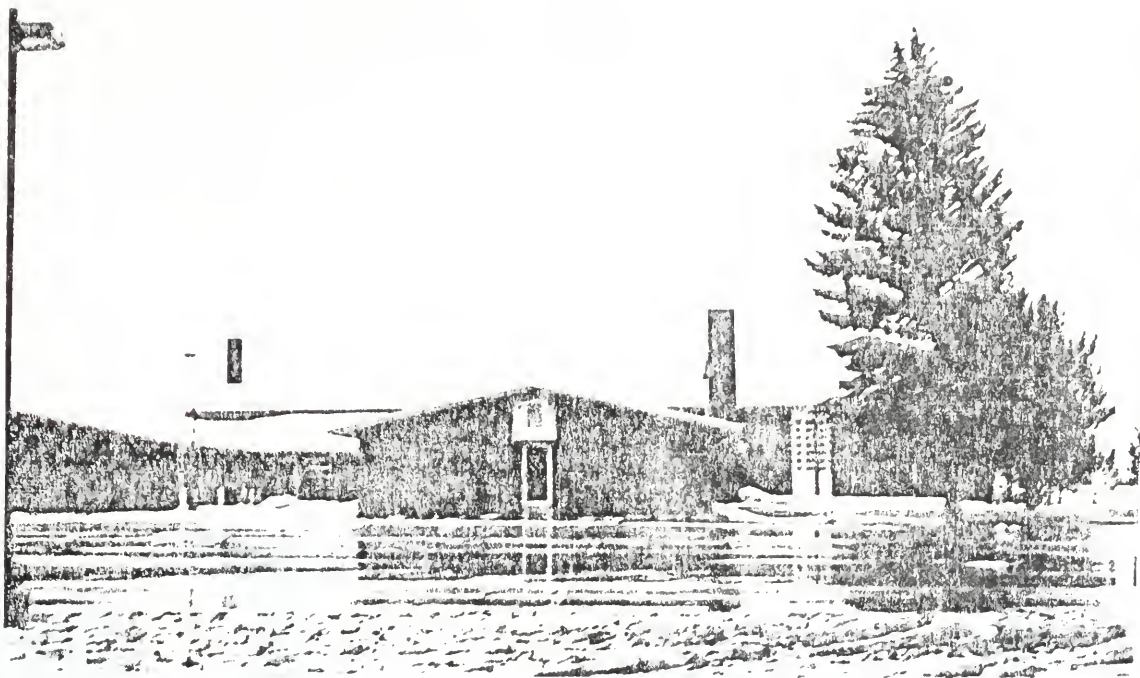
Sutton Cemetery 1879

There were two children born in Lyman that fall, a boy to Mr. and Mrs. George Briggs on August 13. He was named George. A girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Silas Buckland on December 4, 1883. She was named Lois. They were the first two white children born in this territory.

Soon there were enough people in the area to form a ward of the L. D. S. Church of their own rather than travel clear into Rexburg for services. A meeting was held on the morning of June 5th to organize the ward to be known as Lyman. Their meeting house was built and ready for use by September or October of 1884. It was twenty-four feet by sixteen feet and had an eight foot ceiling. There were two windows on the north and south with a door in the west. The seats were of rough plank hewed with the ax and set on blocks of wood. A table was used for the pulpit. The walls were whitewashed and it would come off if one leaned on them. All meetings, dances, and entertainments were held in this building. This building served until 1889. There were fifty-one people present at the first meeting. The ward population in 1885 was one hundred thirty-one people so there was steady growth.

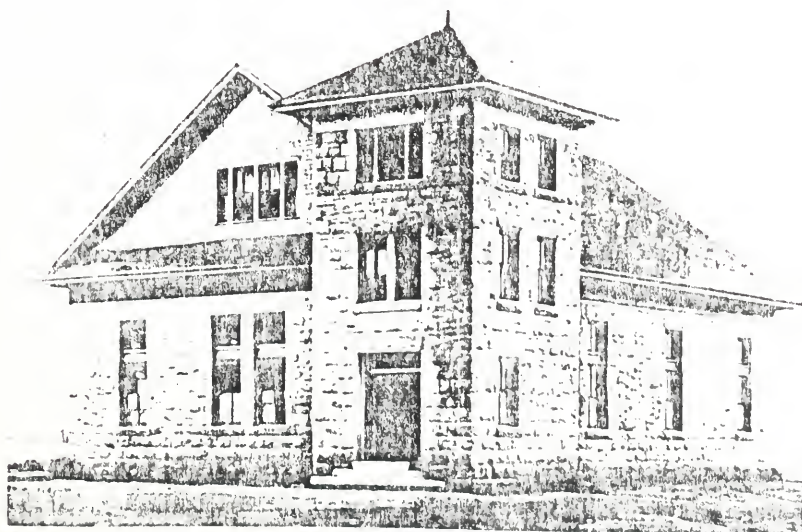






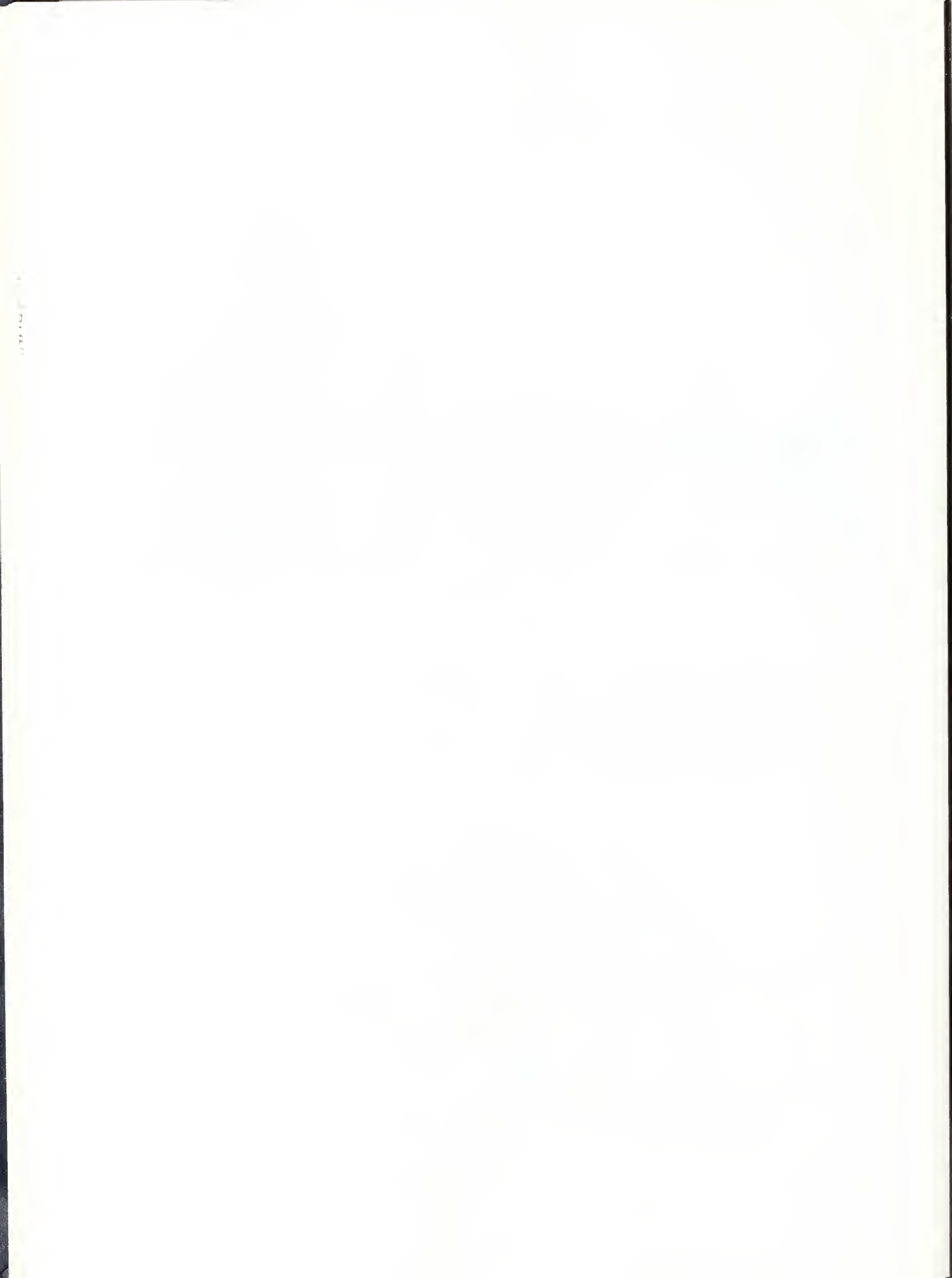
Lyman Ward

The spring of 1884 brought about the desire for a school or at least the education of the children. Zelpha Squires was only a girl of fifteen but she was asked if she would consider teaching in her home. There were eighteen to twenty children and she was to be paid a dollar a month for each child. Some of the boys were larger than her but presented no problem. The parents were pleased with the situation.

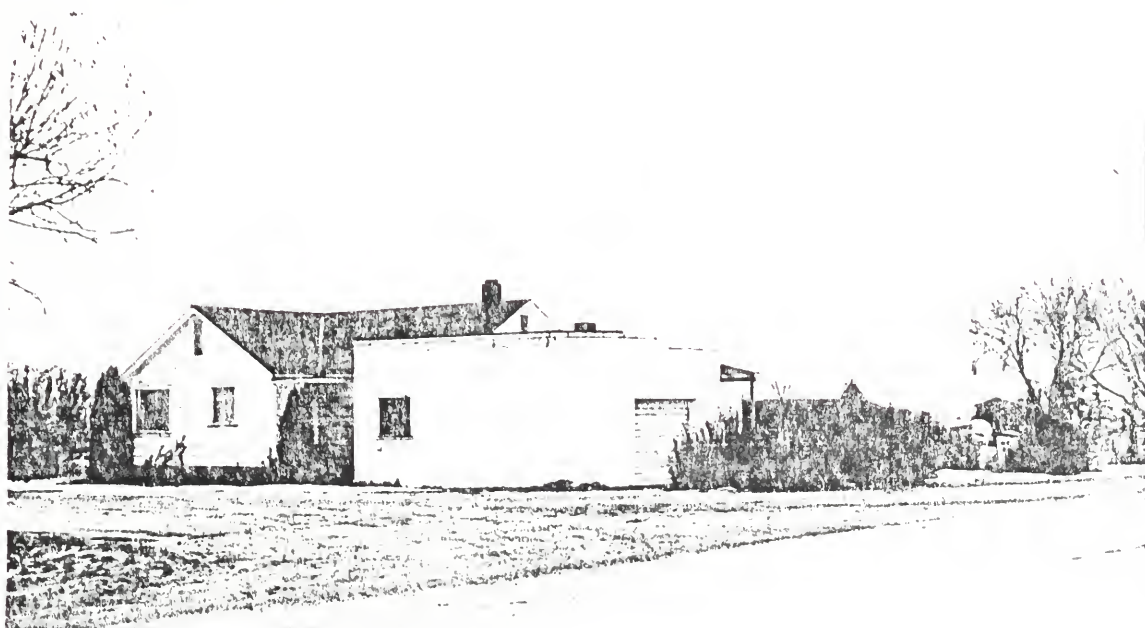


Archer

Ward



Mr. and Mrs. George Briggs lived on a corner and many people asked for him to bring home things they needed from town. He worked in Idaho Falls and had to take his pay in store supplies. He was able to buy a yoke of oxen and was able to bring more supplies in. These supplies were sold to the surrounding farmers and from this small beginning a business emerged.



### Lyman Business

It was first carried on in their home. In 1897 a fire burned both the home and the store but it was covered by insurance and they received four thousand, five hundred dollars to rebuild. A rock store was built across the street from the former home. Over the years a granary was used for storage for the store. Storage was necessary as in these early years they had to haul all their supplies from Market Lake (Roberts) and they did not want to make too many trips.

Over the years George established a reputation for honesty in his business. During the depression of 1893 the manager of the Z.C.M.I. store in Idaho Falls instructed his employees to allow no customer credit. When he found out that George Briggs was one of the applicants he told the clerk to let Mr. Briggs have all the credit he needed. Briggs told people to pay both their tithing and their store bill but if they were lacking in funds to pay their tithing first as the rest would come later.

When the country was first settled the river was much bigger and the winters were longer, colder, and had more snow. The people south of the river from Iona, Eagle Rock, Willow Creek, and etc., could ford the river to take their grain to the mill in Rexburg. Crossing the river was no easy experience. The cobbles on the river bottom were hard and





the wheels slid over the rocks causing the wagon to rock back and forth against the horses. The horses found the footing very unsure and hazardous. The water would sometimes come up into the wagon bed and at times it would seem that everything would go down the river.

The grain was milled in Rexburg into white flour for winter use. The trail crossed the river and then followed the bluff along into Rexburg.

The Paynes lived near the road. She would see a wagon coming and bring out anything she had for them to eat. It was usually buttermilk or cake.

Each year saw the arrival of many more people. In 1885 O. P. Johnson was among those seeking a home. He made a deal with John Taylor that gave him a home, one hundred acres of ground, a stable, and a well with a curb for the sum of fifty dollars. That doesn't sound like much money but currency was hard to come by. Mr. Johnson was a shoe maker and was very good at it. He would make a pair of boots for the sum of seven dollars.

The Taylors located near the mouth of Lyman Creek. They soon had a new home built there. There was good soil and they were close to the hills and the timber. During the summer he built a sawmill on Lyman Creek half a quarter mile back in. He dammed off the stream making a small reservoir. The water was released during the season for irrigation purposes. The water also turned a wheel to furnish power for the saw mill. He was a blacksmith by trade and soon had a shop in the yard near his home.

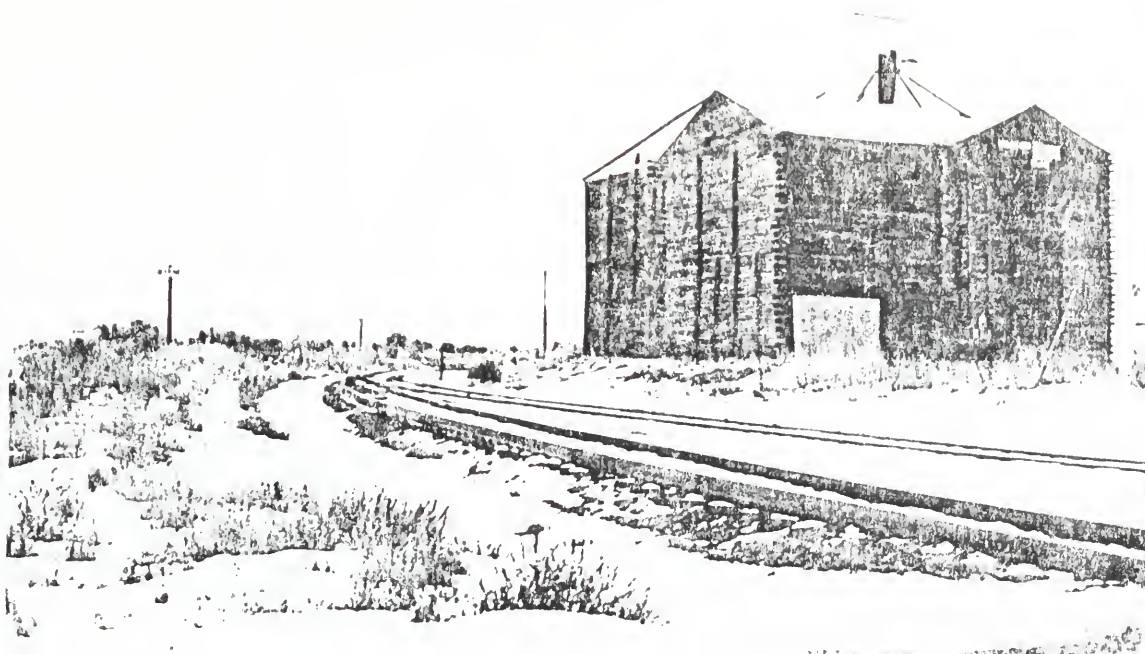
The Hawley family planted a very large orchard and they raised all kinds of fruits. They had pears, peaches, apricots, plumbs, apples, and cherries. Other fruits were raspberries, strawberries, dewberries, rhubarb, currants, and gooseberries. Many in the valley came to help harvest and obtain their fruits. It was referred to by many as the 'Little Garden of Eden.'

The people of the Sunnyside vicinity had to rely on wild game for their meat. There were deer, elk, and fish in abundance. Cyrus Hawley was a very observing man and enjoyed the beauties of nature around him. One day as the sun came peeping through the heavy dark clouds after a summer shower, Mr. Hawley called to his wife to come and see the lovely picture. He noticed the sun shining on the one little corner of their country with all the rest in dark shadow. He said to his wife, "Isn't it beautiful? It should be called Sunnyside." From then on it was called Sunnyside and the name has stayed with a division of the Archer Ward being called the Sunnyside Ward.

The cattle were all driven to the hills during the days to feed on the long grasses there. Cyrus Hawley was in charge of them one day and noticed a deer limping toward a pool of water. The water was a beautiful color. When the deer reached the pool it laid down and dangled its foot in the water. After this Cyrus began to watch for the deer each time he took the cattle up the canyon. Several times he saw the deer and it always repeated the same process. He knew it was the same animal as he had noticed and made note of markings on its skin. He knew that the hot water of the pool had mineral content. The deer was soon healed. He mentioned the incident to a reporter and a piece was written in the paper.







Sunnydell In Winter



Heise Hot Springs



A Mr. Heise read the story and came up to investigate the area. He immediately filed a claim on the surrounding territory and soon established a health resort. It has been very successful over the years. People came from many miles around to bathe in the pools as a cure for rheumatism and muscle ailments.



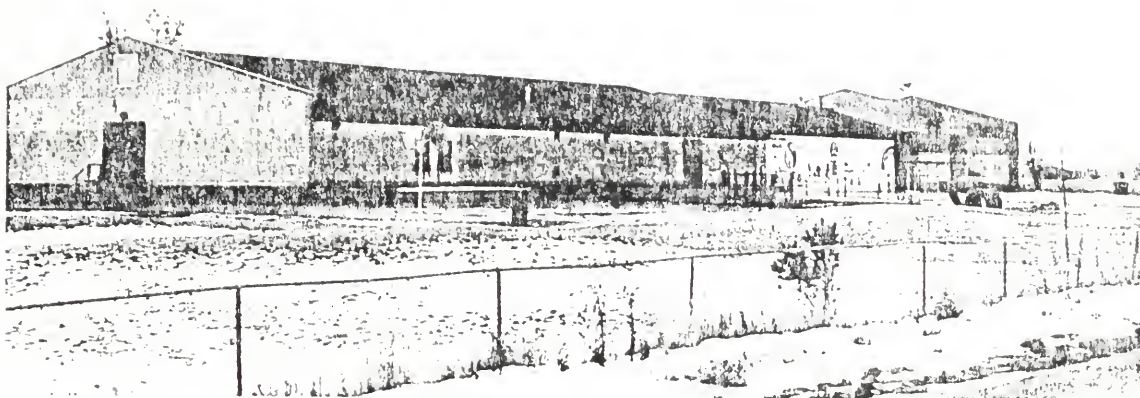
Archer Canal

As soon as a pioneer had built a cabin for a home and broken up a little ground for cultivation they began to work on a ditch. This was long and tedious work and at times dangerous. The Byrne canal would be typical. The men worked for two years on this canal. They worked summer and winter often waist deep in the cold icy water. They had to rip rap and make a solid head for the canal or all would be in vain. Several times the head washed out and all their work was for nothing. They kept at it. A shack was built near the head so men could come and spend considerable time rather than take time traveling. When the head was secured the rest of the canal could be scraped out and water would soon be flowing.

Schools were held in a home until a schoolhouse could be built. The first school was held in the home of Sam Wilcox. The next year a granary was used for one term. The following summer Dave Wilcox and Silas Buckland went to the hills and got out logs to build a little schoolhouse. It was built where the Sunnydell school now stands. It was very crude but was the best they could do with the primitive tools. After a few years of service this building was replaced by a new rock building. The rock was quarried up on the hills six miles to the east. Much of the rock used throughout the valley was blocked in this quarry.







Lyman School



Archer School





Later a petition was put in the schoolhouse making two rooms with two teachers. The schoolhouse burned in March in the early 30's. The school term was finished in the lumber yard building up by the Byrne store. The next year school was held in the new rock building. This school had two rooms and a full basement. The basement was used as an amusement hall, for fences, for basketball, and for banquets.

In 1886 Hyrum Grayle, Don Perry, and C. M. Squires contracted to run a ferry on the South Fork of the Snake River to shorten the route to Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls) and points south. The ferry was at the point of the hill which is now known as the Hawley Ranch. The boat was later sold and moved down the river to a point near the big buttes. Prior to the ferry there was a wire basket on a cable used to bring the mail and supplies across.

There is much more information in this manuscript on the early history of these areas. It is a tribute to this unknown author that they took the time and effort to gather and assemble this story. I have not listed the many names of the settlers that are included. Again I would suggest the full manuscript is available in the library of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society in the Teton Flood Museum.

## MADISON HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

The first public schools in Rexburg were held in private homes whose owners were unfriendly towards the Mormons. Since the Mormon Church held private schools for the members of the Church, it was necessary for those few non-members to have their own school. It was not that they were unwelcome in the Saints schools, it was that they did not want their children becoming contaminated with Mormon doctrine. High school work was, however, a different matter. It was done for all at the Ricks Academy and later at Ricks College. The non-members could attend there or send their kids to adjoining school districts.

The Depression caused a financial crunch with the L.D.S. Church which brought about the closing of several of their Academies. Ricks was allowed to stay open on a year-to-year basis as local funding permitted. This controversy caused the people of Rexburg to support the beginning of a public high school. Madison High School graduated its' first class in the spring of 1930.

Madison County had several school districts until 1948. A state law that year asked for school reorganization. The districts were reduced to two, one in Rexburg and the other in Sugar City.



The rest of this article will describe some of the changes in the school buildings, activity, clubs, etc. These things were the ones that were deemed important enough to find their way into the yearbooks of the succeeding years.

#### 1927-28

The first yearbook was known as the Madisonian and it still carries the same name today. The yearbook of 1927 lists eighty students in the Sophomore Class and one hundred eleven in the Freshman Class. The Juniors and Seniors went to Ricks Academy. This first year featured a play called, "Smilin' Through," and it was such a success that curtains for the auditorium were purchased from the proceeds. A contest was held this year for the best song written by a student. First prize was five dollars and second was two dollars and fifty cents. Miss Donetta Parker won with "Boost for Madison High" sung to the tune, "Star of the King." The first line goes, "Madison High our Alma Mater were are here, to sing our songs and for you ever cheer..." The Girls Athletic Association this year was striving to make themselves healthy and beautiful by developing correct posture.

#### 1928-1929

The first Junior Class ever was in the school this year. Their Junior Prom was called the Spanish Patio Prom and was the first of these. The basketball team went to the state tournament in Moscow and brought back the sportsmanship cup. The Debaters won the championship of Southern Idaho.

#### 1929-30

This was the first year Madison had a Senior class to graduate. It was a super year. They took the state championship in basketball. They were led in this effort by the inventor of the jump shot, Conley Watts. He is recognized as the one who invented the jump shot that was soon being used all over the world. Madison played their first football game as a high school this year. They won two games, tied two, and lost three in their first year.

#### 1931

This year was the beginning of the Pepper Club. This girls group gave their support to games, operas, school plays, and other activities.

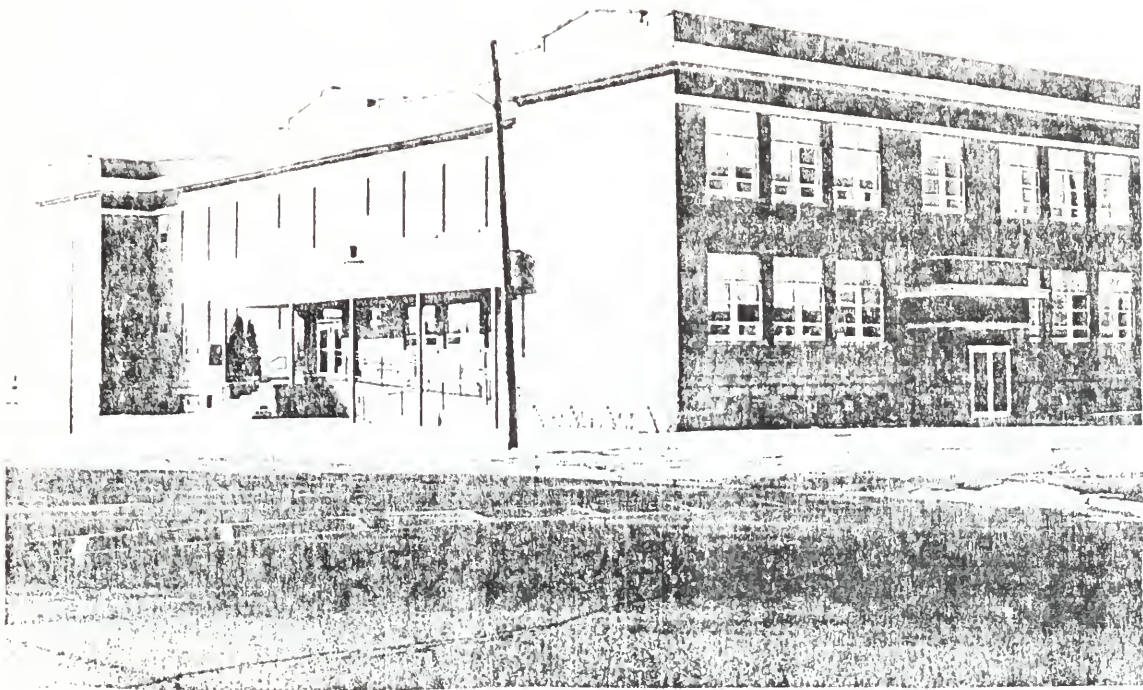
#### 1932

Not to be outdone, the boys started their pep and service club this year. It was called the Kappa Kegga Knales Klub. There was an initiation to belong to the club. It was discontinued in the 1960's when the initials KKK took on a greater meaning.

#### 1933

With twenty-six enthusiastic musicians, the pep band began to add their rhythm and spirit to the games this year. Madison debaters won the district, they won the Interdistrict,





First Madison High School Building

and were set to go to state in Lewiston. A spring storm made it impossible for them to get to that competition. Football got through the season without a defeat and were crowned as Champions of Southeastern Idaho. In Basketball they were District Champs and won a large silver cup given by the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce.

1935

On the last Friday in January, parents came to school and students stayed home. It was called Father and Mother's Day. Buses filled with enthusiastic parents came to school to attend their child's classes. Lunch was served through the curtesy of the School Board. The afternoon was used for personal consultation with individual parents.

1939

This year was the first for two colors in the yearbook. It was a pink with the white.

1940

All girls in the high school belonged to the Co-ed Club. The crowning event of the school year came on Girl's Day. On this day the girls entertained their mothers with a program and a tea, followed by the annual Co-ed Ball in the evening.

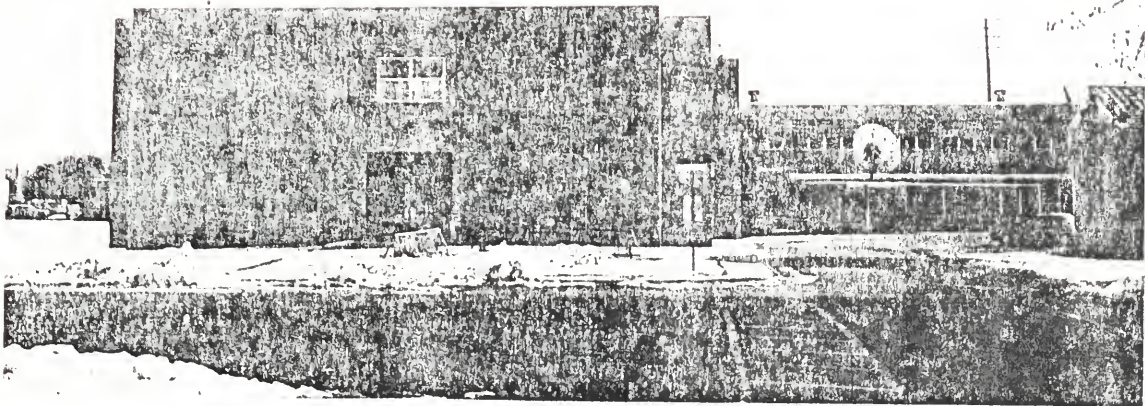




THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY

100 EAST 57TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637





Second High School  
Just East of First School

1955

This year the decision was made to move the Freshmen to the Junior High School so there would only be the upper three classes in the High School. These kind of decisions are usually made with respect to crowded conditions and an impending or just finished building programs. The high school classes moved into a new building to the east of their prior residence. The new school consisted of two buildings, one a classroom type and the other one a gym and cafeteria. They were constructed of gray brick and the gym was built on the foundations of an unfinished armory building started in the late 1930's as part of the Depression recovery.

1959

The Bobcadettes make their first entrance into the school. There were twenty-five members under the direction of LaRue Miller.

1960

More construction occurred this year with the linking of the two existing buildings with classrooms and an office area. A special singing group of girls made the scene. They were called the "Nocturnettes." A guys car club was also organized this year. It was called the "Road Nights Club." Contrary to the image that might go with the name, this group led the drive for "Teens Against Polio."

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1963

This year brought the addition of the Industrial Art wing to the existing structures.

1965

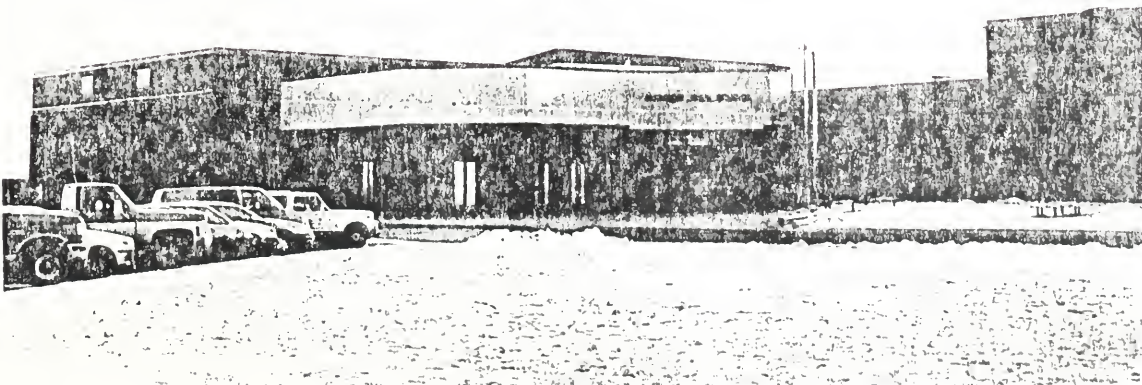
Who is to be the Boy and Girl of the Month? Faculty were asked to nominate and then vote for their preference. Two other clubs beginning this year were the Future Teachers and the Boosters.

1966

A marquee was placed on the south side of the gym building to allow the advertisement of upcoming events. The first science fair drew many participants. Peggy Clemons was crowned as the first queen of the Miss Madison Pageant. The proposed consolidation of the Sugar and Madison Districts was defeated by the Sugar patrons and approved by the Madison patrons.

1973

A new high school was built on land purchased from Sarah and Reginald Gillespie. It is located on the east side of the town. There is plenty of land there for expansion. To enable the biggest building possible, it was left on the inside without walls between the classrooms. These are to be added later as finances permit. Classes began in 1974 in this building.



Current Madison High School

TO : THE SECRETARY

FROM : THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

DATE: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

1974

The Mr. Madison Pageant began this year. It is a parody of the Jr. Miss and created a lot of fun in the school.

1976

The Teton Flood was the big news this year. Two weeks after this class graduated the Teton Dam collapsed and the water came down. At the high school, the main damage was in the gym, the office areas, and the shop building. A water tanker being used later in the recovery lost its brakes on the hill above the school. It rolled down and broke through a wall on the southeast side of the school. There was considerable water damage from the tank bursting. The beginning of school was delayed until after potato harvest this year as the reconstruction work was not finished.

1986

The high school adopts a new scheduling program to enable students to keep up with increased state requirements. The school changes from a two semester system to a three trimester system. The students like the new program as it means five classes a day instead of seven.

1988

Construction plans this year will include a second gym to be built so more physical education can go on. The gym was to provide another area for recreation and dances. Greater enrollment is forcing the expansion with more classrooms being added as well. The program will be in effect in the fall of 1989. At this time the Freshmen Class will return to the high school.

1991

A bond passed this fall will enable a building to be built to house the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades in the southwest part of town. This means the Freshmen Class will move back to the Junior High School building in the fall of 1993. This major building is supposed to solve all the building additions in the district for the next several years.

HEXBIB



## MELVINA HUFFAKER - FIRST GRADUATING CLASS RICKS COLLEGE 1903

The following information was gathered by Hortense Hanson, a life long historian who was honored as the historian of the year for 1991 by the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society.

Mina Huffaker was born in South Cottonwood, Utah, October 17, 1886, to Welby Richardson and Martha Winn Huffaker. When she was six months old the family moved to Burn, south of Rigby and then to a farm at Leorin, now Milo.

When she was almost seven, Mina with her older brother, started school. The little schoolhouse was three miles from their home, so they either rode a mile or walked the distance each day. Their first teacher was their uncle, Dermont Huffaker. After two years of teaching he was elected County Assessor and left the teaching profession.

When the new teacher, Mr. Jordan, arrived the enrollment of the school had increased to one hundred ten pupils making it too large for one teacher to handle. Unable to hire another teacher, Mr. Jordan and Mina and another older girl helped teach various classes. Mina had three regular classes each day and was often called upon to take additional classes. Many days she taught most of the day. Sometimes she would be asked to go from desk to desk giving individual help to the students.



Melvina Huffaker  
First Graduating Class of Ricks Academy, 1903

REXBIB

When Mina was twelve years old, the older girl who was helping teach, got married and Mina was asked to teach her classes also. She did the work cheerfully and was happy for the opportunity and experience. However, because she was so busy teaching the others during the day, she had a great deal of homework to do in order to prepare her own lessons.

Six weeks after Mina's eighth birthday, her mother died. She left six children. Mina was the oldest girl and was given the responsibility of caring for the other children. Her father did hire a woman to help with the work and stay with the younger children while the others were in school. This situation held until her father remarried.

In the spring of 1900 Mina graduated from the Leorin Grade School at the age of thirteen. In the fall she attended Ricks Academy in Rexburg. Mina planned to be a school teacher and took the necessary classes at Ricks to qualify her to teach. Three years later she graduated with high honors as one of the nine in the first graduating class from Ricks. She wanted to teach in the fall but was too young to obtain a teaching certificate. Finally, because of her exceptionally high grades, the County School Board granted her a certificate and she accepted a teaching position in Archer, Idaho. She was a certified school teacher at the age of sixteen.

Schools were much different in those days from what we have today. All the students met in one room and one teacher taught all ages. Mina had seventy-three students ranging in ages from six to twenty-three. These students had run the last two teachers (both men) off the job. Undaunted, Mina was determined to fulfill her commitment. Her older brother had given her a riding whip, which measured about two and one half feet, to use if necessary for discipline. The twenty-three year old 'boy' who towered over Mina, was the first to experience her ability to manipulate the whip with one sharp crack. The rest of the students learned from observance. There was never any further need for the whip. Very soon a wonderful relationship developed between her and her students and it proved to be a most successful year for all of them.

Mina continued to teach for ten years in other schools. She taught in Hibbard, Parker, Kaufman (on Birch Creek), LaBelle, and Shelley.

She usually attended summer school at the University of Idaho, Southern Branch at Pocatello, to help increase her knowledge and skill in the teaching profession.

Mina married Lyman Madsen, a young man from Shelley, Idaho, on December 25, 1911. The announcement of their engagement appeared in the town newspaper, The Shelley Pioneer, on June 10, 1910. It read, "Miss Melvina Huffaker has grown tired of her pedagogue's (teacher's) solitude and is about to commit matrimony.

Following the long illness and death of her husband in 1947 and her return to health, Mina resumed her fight for a library. A building was obtained and the books taken out of storage, dusted, mended, and placed on the shelves. Much help was given by clubs, merchants, and others of the city. This enabled the library to reopen September 18, 1950.





Support waned and Mina was left to struggle alone. She was the librarian and remained as such until illness forced her to discontinue the work. She had established a library that could carry on without her. The library continues today as a monument to the determination and untiring efforts of one dedicated woman.

Mina Huffaker Madsen contributed much to the education of Idaho. Because of her service to her community, family, and church she was nominated as Mother of the Year in 1949. She was a member of the American Mothers Committee with headquarters in New York City, from 1949 until her death, May 17, 1960.

### LEONARD HOCHSTEIN

Leonard Hochstein of Rexburg picked up this chair at a recent rummage sale. He figured that for five dollars he got a pretty good deal. After examining the bottom of the chair he found the initials 'W. P.' and the words 'Rexburg via Market Lake.' After some investigation he thinks the initials stand for Walter Paul, a carpenter and undertaker in Rexburg near the turn of the century. This was when all supplies that came by railroad had to go to Market Lake as the railroad was not running up the valley yet. The chair or the wood for it probably was shipped to Market Lake by rail where it was picked up. Then it was hauled across the desert to the ferry and then crossed the river to end up in Rexburg.



Leonard Hochstein and Chair

EXPIRES

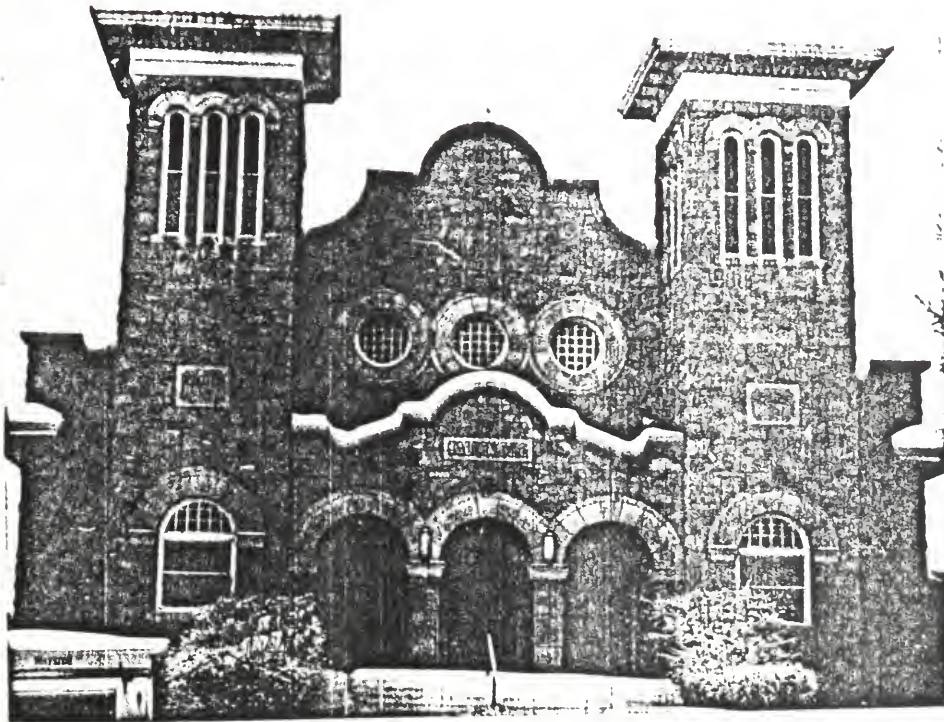




## CHAPTER 3

### REXBURG STAKE OF ZION

Peter J. Ricks was the fifth Stake President to serve in this area. He served for seventeen years. During his time of service, on June 23, 1935, the name of the stake was changed to the Rexburg Stake of Zion from the Fremont Stake. This was a means of better identifying it's location. It was also during this time that the Great Depression was on and World War II took place. The Welfare program of the Church was instigated. An the April, 1936, General Conference of the Church, the General Authorities called for renewed emphasis on the Welfare Phase of the Gospel.



Rexburg Stake Tabernacle

On May 2, 1936, under the direction of the Stake Presidency, Peter J. Ricks, President; Arthur Porter, First Counselor; and Oswald W. Christensen, Second Counselor. The Stake Relief Society Organization was perfected as follows: President Arthur Porter

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the study area. It includes information about the location of the study area, the population of the study area, and the characteristics of the study area. It also discusses the data sources used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a detailed description of the study results. It includes information about the findings of the study, the conclusions drawn from the findings, and the implications of the findings. It also discusses the limitations of the study and the need for further research.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and a summary of the study. It provides a final statement on the importance of the study and the findings of the study. It also provides a summary of the key points of the study.



as Chairman, Bishop Hugh A. Wright as the Bishop's representative, Sister May Grover representing the Relief Society, Henry C. Blunck as Work Director, and Frank L. Davis as Auditor and Secretary.

President Ricks stated the following, "During the early years of 1930 a serious depression swept over our country and many of the Saints were left without jobs and the burden of caring for the people became a real problem.

The Church set up a program to increase the fast offerings. A goal of one dollar per capita was urged and a drive to reach that amount was undertaken by each stake. The Bonneville Stake of Salt Lake City was given credit as being first and the Rexburg Stake was credited as the second in the Church to reach that assignment and for several years our stake exceeded that amount. The Welfare program has been and shall always play an important part in the history of the Church.

In 1940 the upstairs floor of the Webster building on Main Street was remodeled through an ambitious effort. Two large reconditioned Majestic cook stoves were purchased from the Idamont Hotel and large pressure cookers which held twelve to fifteen quart cans were obtained from an independent cannery company. In 1941 the Rexburg Stake Relief Society set forth the slogan which was adopted by every woman and girl in the Stake, "One Day In The Cannery", and during that year a total of twenty-two thousand cans were processed in this stake cannery.

In October of 1945, under the direction of Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, a division of the Rexburg Stake took place. Through this division the North Rexburg Stake was formed.

The Rexburg Stake included the following wards: Archer, Burton, Independence, Lyman, Rexburg Second, Rexburg Third, and Rexburg Fourth. The Rexburg North Stake included: Hibbard, Newdale, Plano, Rexburg First, Salem, Sugar First, Sugar Second, and Teton.

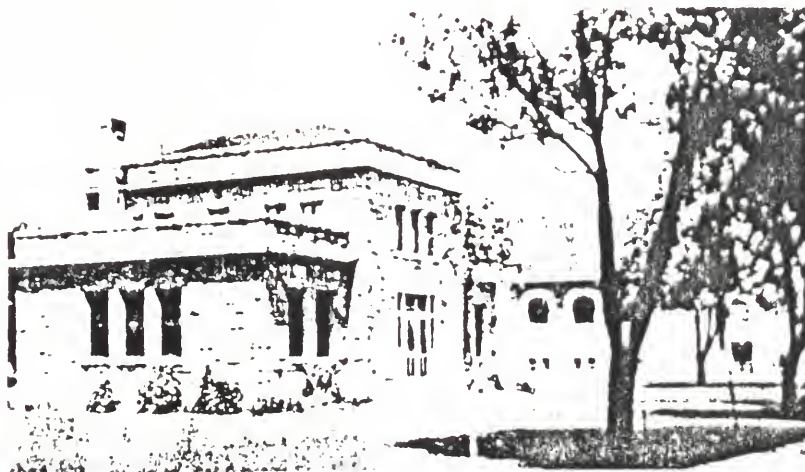
Peter J. Ricks continued to preside over the Rexburg Stake after it's division until January 18, 1948, when he and his counselors were released, and John L. Clarke became president with Delbert G. Taylor and LaVere A. Ricks as counselors. President Taylor was soon called to preside over the Eastern States Mission and H. Lester Petersen was sustained as Second Counselor. Frank L. Davis, who had served as Stake Clerk for many years, continued to serve in that capacity. Brother Davis was released December, 1951, after serving for nineteen years. Warren R. Widdison was sustained in January, 1952, as the Stake Clerk.

President Clarke served for nearly nine years. During his term of office, the two stake Bishops Storehouse was erected. It was dedicated June 22, 1952, by Elder LeGrand Richards. The Deseret Industries of Ogden, Utah, began to collect old clothing and rags to give employment to the old and the handicapped people of the Church.





On July 22, 1955, the Ray J. Wood dry farm was sold on a sealed bid. The farm consisted of thirteen hundred acres. The Rexburg Stake submitted a bid of two hundred sixty-three thousand, five hundred fifty dollars and fifty cents. This proved to be the high bid. The stake raised thirty thousand dollars in cash and the Church loaned the stake the balance. The balance was to be paid from the crops over the next several years. This farm has been a great asset to the stake and wards have supported it well.



Stake Office Building  
Located on south side of Tabernacle

On October 14, 1956, President Clarke and his counselors were released. President Delbert G. Taylor was sustained as Stake President with Willis G. Nelson and Walter F. Ririe as counselors. Warren R. Widdison and Robert L. Pedersen were sustained as Stake Clerks.

It was during this time that it was announced that Ricks College would be moved to Idaho Falls. President Taylor, along with others, worked hard to accumulate data to help reverse this decision. The effort of many kept the college in Rexburg. The Rexburg stake along with the North Rexburg Stake raised about eighty-five thousand dollars locally to pay off the Kirkham Auditorium on campus. This was the first major construction on campus in many years. The support of the people on this project as well as the other activities helped to convince the Brethren to change their decision.

After serving in the presidency for three and one half years, President Willis G. Nelson moved away. President Walter F. Ririe was sustained as the First Counselor and President J. Wendell Stucki was sustained as Second Counselor. President Stucki was called to serve as the Stake President of the Ricks College First Stake on May 7, 1965. Replace him as the Second Counselor was Clyde L. Thomas.

On March 20, 1966, Elder Ezra Taft Benson attended the Rexburg Stake Conference. Under his direction, President Delbert G. Taylor and his counselors were released. President Walter F. Ririe was sustained as the Stake President with Clyde L. Thomas as the





First Counselor and Warren R. Widdison as Second Counselor. Robert L. Pedersen was sustained as Stake Clerk. After serving one year, President Thomas passed away from a sudden illness. President Widdison became the First Counselor and Gordon S. Thatcher was sustained as the Second Counselor. During this period, Brother Robert L. Pedersen was called to the High Council and Ralph E. Weatherston was called as the Stake Clerk.

On September 28, 1969, under the direction of Elder LeGrand Richards, President Walter F. Ririe with his counselors were released. Ririe was moving from the stake. President Mark G. Ricks was sustained as Stake President with Gordon S. Thatcher and Keith L. Sellers as Counselors. Ralph E. Weatherston was sustained as Stake Clerk and Warren R. Widdison was sustained and ordained a patriarch.

Under this leadership, the stake continued to grow and in June of 1975 the stake was divided to form the Rexburg East Stake. This stake was comprised of the Archer, Lyman, Rexburg Fourth, Rexburg Sixth, and Rexburg Tenth Wards. The Rexburg Stake was comprised of the Rexburg Second, Rexburg Third, Rexburg Fifth, Rexburg Seventh, Rexburg Ninth, and Rexburg Eleventh. President Keith L. Peterson was sustained as President of the Rexburg East Stake with Leo M. Smith as First Counselor and Charles M. Grant as Second Counselor.

President Mark G. Ricks continued to serve but his counselors were not in his stake. They had to be released. His new counselors were Dell Klingler and Robert L. Pedersen with Ralph E. Weatherston as the clerk.

On June 5, 1976, the Teton Dam burst and Rexburg was in the path of a large amount of water. Many homes were destroyed. The L.D.S. Church and Ricks College played an important part in taking care of the families and helping them relocate or return to their homes. President Mark G. Ricks spent many long hours in supervising the clean up activity and the efforts of those who came from out of the area to help

On October 10, 1976, President Mark G. Ricks and his counselors were released as he had been called as a Regional Representative. Donald D. Rydalch was called to serve as Stake President with Robert L. Pedersen as the First Counselor and Sylvan F. Seely as the Second Counselor. Ralph E. Weatherston continued on as the Stake Clerk. As of July, 1980, these brethren were still serving.

Over the years the Church continued to grow. Each ward of the Rexburg Stake had been divided at least once. The Burton and Independence Wards were consolidated and became the Rexburg Seventh Ward. This ward was then divided to make the Rexburg Seventh Ward and the Rexburg Seventeenth Ward. The Eleventh Ward was divided to make the Rexburg Twelfth Ward and again later to make the Rexburg Fourteenth. The Rexburg Third Ward was again divided to make the Rexburg Thirteenth Ward.

All of the wards have new or newly remodeled buildings. The Rexburg Seventh and Seventeenth Wards have recently remodeled their building and it has been rededicated. The Rexburg Eleventh, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Wards have recently had their new building



dedicated. The new Rexburg Stake Center and recreation complex is now completed and will be dedicated as soon as the balance of funds are paid.

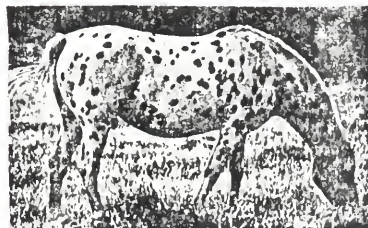
The Ricks College wards were under the direction of the Rexburg Stake until May 7, 1965, at which time the College First Stake was formed with President J. Wendell Stucki as the Stake President. Since that time three more stakes have been formed on the campus with forty-four wards. The creation of the fifth stake is scheduled for December 8, 1991. There will also be a couple of wards added.

### IDAHO-THE GEM STATE

The following summary of Idaho was handed in as a term report by Katie Call in the Fall of 1991. Katie is a junior at Madison High School in Rexburg.

Idaho is a Rocky Mountain state of the United States with exciting scenery and enormous natural resources. Idaho has peaceful lakes and steep canyons. The churning waters of Idaho's Snake River rush through Hell's Canyon, which is deeper than the Grand Canyon. The Snake River at Shoshone Falls plunges down rugged cliffs from a height greater than that of Niagara Falls.

Among the mountains of the north lies quiet Couer d'Alene Lake, one of the world's most beautiful lakes. Boise, in the southwestern part of the state is the capital and the largest city of Idaho.



Appaloosa  
State Horse

Idaho's natural resources include fertile soil, rich mineral deposits, thick forests, and greater water supplies. Idaho farmers grow sugar beets, wheat, and many other crops. But Idaho's most famous product is potatoes. Idaho ranks first among the states in potato production and the people throughout the United States enjoy the Idaho baked potato.





Every year Idaho mines produce millions of dollars worth of minerals. The state ranks first in silver production. Idaho has the nation's largest lead mines.

Forest cover about forty percent of Idaho. The forests have thick growths of fir, pine, spruce, and other trees. Idaho mills and factories turn out great quantities of fiberboard, pulp, paper, and other forest products.

Idaho has one of the most colorful histories of any of the states. Prospectors discovered gold in Idaho during the 1860's. Thousands of miners then poured into the region hoping to strike it rich. Farmers and ranchers came after the miners. As the mines in the area were worked out many of the miners moved on to other areas but the farmers and ranchers stayed to build the state.

Idaho became a state in 1890. It grew quickly as its natural resources were developed. It's forests were trapped and it became an industry. The get-rich-quick prospectors for gold and silver were replaced by scientists. These modern prospectors found that Idaho had many other valuable minerals besides gold and silver. Rich, fertile soils and tremendous water resources prompted the growth of agriculture. Today, agriculture is still an important part of Idaho's economy. The manufacturing and service industries have grown rapidly and as a result Idaho has changed from a rural to an urban state.

The name Idaho was first suggested in 1860 for the area that became the Colorado Territory. But the name was rejected because it was not an Indian word but the concoction of a couple of men. In 1863 the name was chosen for the territory that included what is now the state of Idaho. The popular name for the state is the Gem State.

The 1980 census of the United States reported that Idaho had 944,038 people. The population had increased thirty-two percent over the 1970 figure of 713,015. The U. S. Bureau of the Census estimated that by 1985 the state's population had reached 1,005,000.

Idaho has no great manufacturing industries to encourage the growth of large cities. The Bureau of the Census reported that in 1980 Idaho had only nineteen cities with population of more than five thousand people. Most of these cities are located along or near the Snake River. Slightly more than half of the people of Idaho live in urban areas. About one sixth live within the Boise metropolitan area. Boise is Idaho's largest city, the capital of the state, and the only metropolitan area in the state. During the early 1960's the rapidly growing Boise annexed all or parts of the surrounding communities of Franklin, Mountain View, and Whitney. In 1962 Pocatello annexed Alameda and became Idaho's second largest city. Pocatello is Idaho's main industrial and railroad center.

Many Idahoans are descendants of early English, Irish, and scottish settlers from the eastern and midwestern states. Other population groups include Germans, French, Swedes, and Danes. About ten thousand, four hundred Indians live in the state.

When Idaho became a state, Congress gave two sections of each township for the support of schools. Little of this land has been used for school sites but it does provide income.

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL

Almost all funds for Idaho schools comes from taxation. Children from age seven through fifteen must attend school.



Syringa  
State Flower

The state board of education oversees and assists the public schools. It consists of seven appointed members and the state superintendent of public instruction. The governor names the appointed members to five-year terms. The voters elect the superintendent to a four year term in Idaho.

The state has but one hundred twenty-five public libraries. Some of the other libraries are the Idaho State Library, the Idaho Supreme Court Library, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Technical Library, and the university and college libraries. The University of Idaho has the state's largest collection of books. The Idaho State Historical Society operates a library and archive in Boise. About twenty percent of the people in Idaho live in rural areas that do not have library service.

## HISTORICAL SIGN PROGRAM

The following information is taken from a pamphlet entitled, "The Historical Sign Program In The State Of Idaho." It was prepared by the Public Information Section of the Idaho Transportation Department.

All the historical markers in Idaho prior to 1956 had been installed by private organization or relations of early pioneers. Most of these markers are located on or near the State Highway System. Most of the markers have been left to the weather and vandals after they were established. Some were in such bad shape that a tourist visiting them would then decide that it was not necessary to stop at any other.

REPRODUCED



Idaho has one fifth of the Oregon Trail inside its borders. Over three hundred thousand immigrants passed through Idaho on that trail between 1842-1853 on their way to Oregon or California. Because there was such historical significance on the trail many towns and chambers of commerce wanted to put up signs to identify their part of the trail. To keep order in the signing along the highways, the Idaho Transportation Department assumed a more definite and active part in developing and signing historical sites along and adjacent to the highways.

The Division of Highways proceeded to develop plans for an entirely new historical site marker so constructed that brightly colored four foot by eight foot panels containing the legend could be removed for winter storage and refinishing. The design of this marker was completed in 1956.



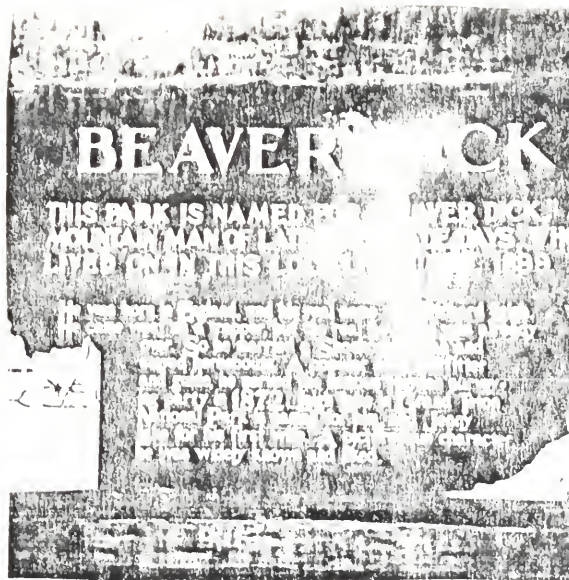
Typical Format For Historical Signs  
Developed by Division of Highways

Today the State Historical Society proposes sites to be marked and works out a suitable legend for each marker. The exact location of the sign is established by the Division of Highways after taking consideration of the problem of turnouts and traffic operations. All signs are required to have adequate turnouts so that the traveling public does not have to park on the shoulder of the highway to read the inscription. Advanced signs are installed one thousand feet in advance of the site to inform the motorist that a historical marker is located ahead.

Each new sign is numbered so that it can be referenced on future maps, tourist pamphlets, or in the booklet provided by the Transportation Department. In addition, it is proposed that existing historical or geological markers that have been installed by other groups and which are located on highway right-of-way will be better maintained, signed, and numbered.



EXPIRED



### Beaver Dick

THIS PARK IS NAMED FOR "BEAVER DICK," A MOUNTAIN MAN OF LATE FUR TRADE DAYS, WHO LIVED ON IN THIS LOCALITY UNTIL 1899.

He was born in England, and his real name was Richard Leigh. He came west as a trapper, but the real fur trade was already over. So he married a Shoshoni woman and stayed hereabouts. A popular early outfitter and guide, he served the famous Hayden surveying party in 1872: Leigh lake in the Grand Teton National Park is named for him, and Jenny Lake for his first wife. A picturesque character, he was widely known and liked.

### Menan Buttes

TWO CONES OF GLASSY LAVA ARE LOCATED DIRECTLY SOUTH OF HERE. THE LARGEST RISES 800 FEET ABOVE THE SURROUNDING PLAIN.

Hot molten lava, erupting from great depth, met cold surface water in the wet flood plain of the Snake River: the norther butte, in fact, formed in the channel of Henry's Fork, which was forced further east. Suddenly chilled into small particles of volcanic glass, the lava exploded up in a great spray of steam and solid fragments which built up into wind-blown cones around large summit craters a half mile long and 200 to 400 feet deep.

### Market Lake

THE FLAT IRRIGATED FIELDS THAT STRETCH TO THE NEXT INTERCHANGE USED TO BE A GREAT INDIAN AND TRAPPERS' HUNTING GROUND IN AN OLD LAKE THAT CAME AND WENT.

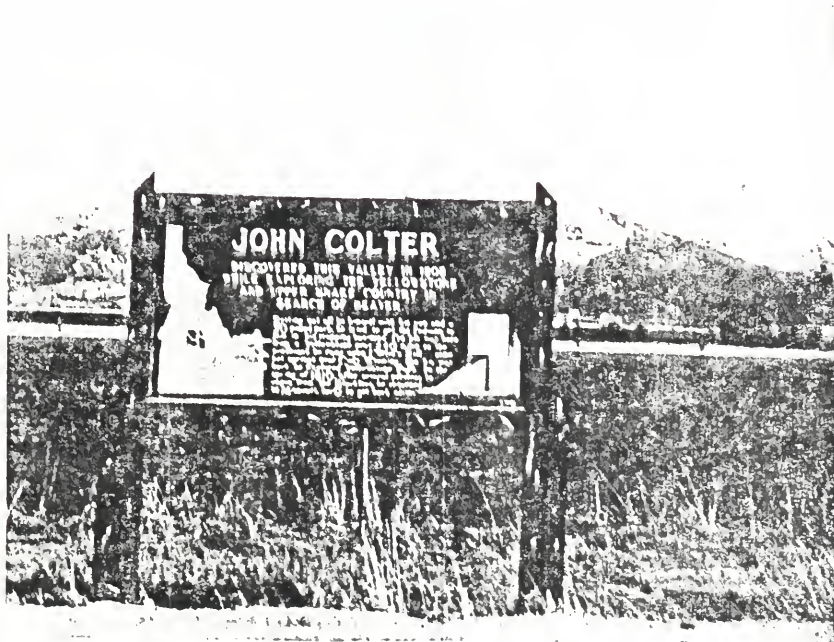


In historic times Market lake was formed during the great Snake River flood of 1853. When a new railroad grade blocked the overflow channel leading from the river, the lake disappeared for a time after 1887. Later irrigation seepage restored the lake, and now the level is regulated for farming and for a wildlife refuge.

### John Day's River

FUR TRADERS NAMED THIS STREAM FOR JOHN DAY, A PIONEER TRAPPER WHO DIED IN THE VALLEY NORTH OF HERE, FEBRUARY 16, 1820.

John Day had started west with John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company party that discovered Snake River Valley to the south of here in 1811. After 1816 he joined Donald Mackenzie's band of fur hunters who finally spent the winter of 1819-1820 in what now is known as Little Lost River Valley. For many years, trappers and map-makers referred to Mackenzie's campground as on John Day's River which is now Little Lost River.



### John Colter

DISCOVERED THIS VALLEY IN 1808 WHILE EXPLORING THE YELLOWSTONE AND UPPER SNAKE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF BEAVER.

Setting out all by himself with his gun and a 30 pound pack, he tried to get the Indians to join in his trapping business. On his way here from a Yellowstone post 240 miles

When a new...  
discovery...  
level is reached...

# TRANSITION

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to the northeast, he came upon Colter's Hell--some hot springs near Cody, Wyoming. On his way back, he explored Yellowstone Park. In the spring of 1810, after several perilous escapes from the Blackfeet, he returned to Missouri, lucky to get back alive.

This pamphlet is provided by the Idaho Transportation Department for a small fee. It might be able to be purchased at one of the district offices.

### FOLK LORE - ST. ANTHONY

The following story came to light from a letter written to the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society on May 6, 1979. The writer was Raymond H. Ramsey. He began the letter by describing himself as a published writer, a member of the Authors' Guild of America, and being listed in the 1979 volume of the book, Contemporary Authors. He was working on a book of American Western folklore. The following information was supplied by him as he interpreted it from an issue of See Magazine published in 1961.

After the night of a full moon in June, 1937, a sheepherder along the Henry's Fork was found dead. His entrails had been eaten out in the manner of a wolf's attack. The only problem is that there never has been a wolf large enough to do that to a man. A month later, on the night of the full moon, a rancher named Burke Jackson was awakened by his cattle stampeding. He found a wolf-like creature the size of a steer standing over a cow it had killed. It had eaten part of the cow. Jackson roped the thing and it fled dragging him until he managed to snub the rope around a tree. The beast broke the lariat and escaped. Supposedly even a range bull could not do this.



A Werewolf Would Have Been  
Several Times The Size Of This Wolf

REPRODUCTION

to the north, the same as in the south, but his was not the same as the south, and he was not the same as the south.

The same as in the south, but his was not the same as the south, and he was not the same as the south.

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The same as in the south, but his was not the same as the south, and he was not the same as the south.

On the next night of a full moon, Jackson staked out a cow as bait for the thing and when it appeared he emptied his rifle into it to no avail. It turned to attack him and in desperation he grabbed an available fence post and stabbed the beast through the heart. This apparently killed it. There was a follow-up rumor of a mysterious stranger in the area who vanished at that time. The beast is said to have remained in its original form. It was stuffed and mounted, and is now on exhibit in "a local museum." Burke Jackson, it is said, was later killed in action in Tarawa in the Pacific Ocean during World War II.

Mr. Ramsey writes the following paragraph. "Understand that I do not believe the story in the form that I have it, but it is the kind of folklore I am studying. So I am writing to ask the following: Is there a local legend about a giant wolf...Was Burke Jackson an actual person, and if so, could you inform me further about him? Is there some sort of exhibit (perhaps faked) in any local museum that substantiates the story? My atlas indicates that Fremont County is not densely populated, and there war probably not many museums there, so it may be elsewhere."

The letter was answered shortly after it was received. At the time of the letter there were only a couple of museums in the whole valley. The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society was rebuilding theirs after the flood. There were a couple of private collections but none containing anything as described above.

It seems to me that someone who has moved from the area probably is making a few bucks writing stories for magazines who are not particular about the facts.

## NATURAL FLUORIDATION FOR REXBURG

Dr. Blair Rich of Rexburg was the recognized authority on fluoridation occurring naturally in water during the 1960's. He lectured all over the United States on this subject. He had kept careful records of his many patients over the years as to where the natural fluoridation preserved their teeth and his research led to the introduction of the fluoride into the drinking water in many towns. There is a special display of Dr. Rich's dentist equipment on exhibit in the Teton Flood Museum.

The following is an editorial that was given on KRXX radio on May 16, 1961, by the general manager of the station, Gene Shumate. Shumate interviewed Rich and the following is the result.

...The Newsletter of the Idaho Dental Society this past week devoted most of a page to Dr. Blair Rich of Rexburg. It said, among other things, "Years ago Dr. Blair C. Rich of Rexburg became interested in the effects of fluorides on the teeth. Even before some of the known authorities had published anything on fluoridation, Dr. Rich had made numerous



studies of the fluoride content in the water supply around Rexburg, Idaho. In 1963, Dr. Rich completed the display culminating in the studies that he had been doing."

Then the newsletter listed the places where the results of the studies had been displayed. It listed the American Medical Society, other medical societies and dental society meetings in Atlantic City, Los Vegas, Portland, Greensboro (North Carolina), Chicago, and San Francisco. The newsletter also said, "When the displaying of this work has finished it will be given to Utah State University where it will be displayed in the chemistry department. A series of slides prepared by Dr. Rich are in the library at the American Dental Association. In addition Dr. Rich has slides of his own and has presented them at numerous meetings and is a guest lecturer at the Dental Hygiene School at Idaho State University."



Dr. Blair C. Rich

Most of this information is fairly well known to Rexburg people, I am sure, and yet I repeat it because it doesn't hurt to remind us that we are fortunate to live where we do-in respect to a source of what apparently is a marvelous builder of good teeth-and we are fortunate that Dr. Rich has done such a workmanlike job in searching out reasons and results.

There are a few isolated areas in the United States where a significant amount of fluoride is found in the water supply used for culinary purposes. There are other areas, becoming increasing in number, where fluorides are added to the water supply to promote dental health.





Where too little fluoride is present, teeth miss a development which guards against cavities. Where too much fluoride is present teeth develop the safeguards but also discolor.

There are some underground streams in the Upper Valley where considerable fluoride is present. The Newdale area is served by one of them. That is where Dr. Rich did most of his early research work. A few years ago Rexburg came to the point of needing a new city well for the city water supply. Dr. Rich prevailed upon city officials to locate the well where it now is. When the water started gushing, he took samples and shipped them to the Health Department, asking for a report on fluoride content. Within a few weeks the report came back. The fluoride was there and it was there in almost perfect proportions. Nothing need be added nor anything detracted.

The State also began a series of tooth checks on the dental health of school age children. This is a continuing study and the first definitive results will probably not be available for a couple of years. It is a controlled study and can't be rushed.

Dr. Rich himself is pretty sure that the Rexburg water is now producing better teeth among the young. It is thought that the good comes in the first six years of a child's life. Although he does not advance it as a scientific study, he says he has one indication that pleases him. A family he serves has three daughters, aged 12, 6, and 3. The six year old has half as many cavities now as did the twelve year old at the age of six. The three year old has half as many cavities now as did the six year old at the age of three. The three year old is the only one of the three who has lived entirely with the fluoride carrying water of Rexburg.

I talked briefly to Dr. Rich about the subject this past week, and learned something new and interesting. It was confirmed by medical Dr. M. F. Rigby, who was also in the conversation. The interesting fact is that when Dr. Rich started his studies of the effect of fluorides on teeth in the Newdale area several years ago he approached it from the standpoint that the fluorides were harmful. He believed that to be the fact. But the years went by, the study continued, and the facts did not bear out his first theory. On the contrary, the facts absolutely refuted his first theory and gave rise to the opposite theory that the Newdale water had dental, health giving properties and fluorides improved the teeth.

From the preceding recital of the depth of his study and the acceptance it has had all over the country from professional men, you can see how thoroughly Dr. Rich did his job. He went to a great length to prove himself wrong. Most of us might not have gone that far. Most of us can have a strong opinion about something and can go into study to prove our point, and when the apparent facts begin to show that our opinion might not be right, most of us discontinue our studies but retain our original strong opinions. You know the old bromide, "Don't confuse me with the facts. I have already made up my mind."

## POTATO SHIPPERS AND FLUORIDE

This is a follow up editorial to the one above by Gene Shumate. It was broadcast on June 11, 1961. We thank Gene for making copies of these two editorials so that they could be included in the history of the Valley.



Today's subjects are potato shippers and Rexburg's natural fluoridation of the city water. There has been a new element enter the water picture of the Rexburg area and anyone who doesn't think water is important to the life and economy of the people on the land should spend some time with a world globe or atlas. Where are the least number of people concentrated and life sustaining matters produced? In the arid lands.

Some examples of Rexburg's favored position in relation to water and soil come to mind. Recently a soil expert from Turkey visited Rexburg. He was taken on a tour of the area by Willis Walker. On the Rexburg Bench he scooped up a handful of dirt and fondled it. "This is the finest I have ever seen," he said.

When the Ricks College well was planned a few years ago, geologists from Salt lake City were called in to locate the water source. Accurately, they pin-pointed the location for Ricks' apparently inexhaustible supply, and they commented, "Rexburg is over the best water in the Northwest."

An now the new element. The water from the new city well on Rexburg hill was recently analyzed. It was determined that the content of fluorine was 1.23. This was hailed as a very important discovery.

To learn why it was important, I went to Dr. Blair Rich in Rexburg last Wednesday. His story became the background to the news Wednesday evening. In the event you missed it, I will repeat some of the highlights and add some comments that were not included in the interview.

First of all, dentist Rich has been preaching the importance of fluoridation for a decade. Fluoridation is a process whereby fluoride is added to water. Perhaps we should define a couple of terms here. Fluoride is a compound of fluorine with an element or radical. Fluorine is an element of the chlorine family isolated as a pungent, corrosive, pale greenish yellow gas.

According to Dr. Rich, when the proper amount of fluorine is present in culinary water, the water used for drinking and cooking, there is a remarkable strengthening of teeth. He says that tests prove that the number of cavities caused by decay is only fifty percent of normal, normal being the condition of teeth when fluorine is not present in proper amounts.

Because of these findings over the years, many cities, especially large cities in the United States, have installed equipment to add fluorine to their water supply.

Dr. Rich said that in most water in this country the amount of fluorine present naturally ranges from zero reading to point six. I asked him what is considered ideal. His answer was from one part in a million to one and one-half parts per million. Less than one part and the tooth preserving factor is missing. More than two parts, some water contains as much as five or more, while the preservative strength is present there is also discoloration of the teeth. The more fluorine the darker the teeth. From one to one and one-half the teeth are strengthened but not discolored.





Dr. Rich began correlating his findings eight years ago. He found that there were some isolated areas close to Rexburg where teeth were less subject to decay. More importantly he found the low decay ratio seemed to follow the water used. He also found that there were places where significant fluorine existed. Where it did the people using it had better teeth.

Armed with this information and other information developed nationally he began to lecture on the subject wherever he could find ears to hear him.

Last fall it was determined by the Rexburg City government that a new city well was necessary. Dr. Rich began campaigning with city officials that the well should be high on Rexburg hill because he believed that particular spot would produce water of good fluorine content. He was listened to sympathetically, albeit a little skeptically, but lack of city money decided the local government to not try to pipe water an extra half mile but to dig the well at the site of the existing reservoir.

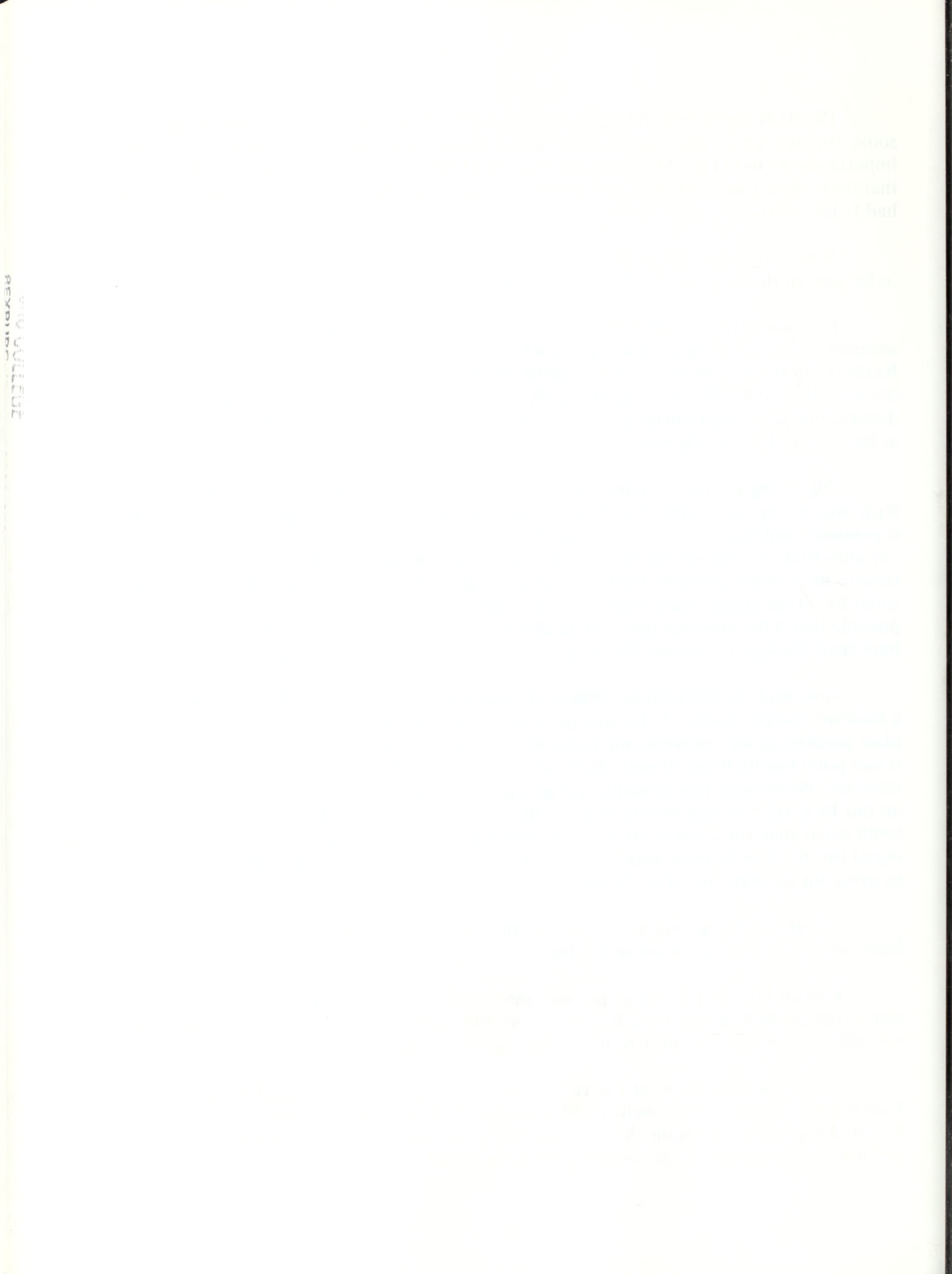
Digressing for just a moment from the fluoridation subject, it appears now that Dr. Rich was giving good advice in more ways than one. City water pressure among the expanding residences on the hill has not been adequate. The problem was ignored by the city until Ricks College presented its campus plans and showed that the new buildings would require more water pressure than now exists. And so the city has promised to remedy the situation. This undoubtedly means a water tower at the current reservoir site. It is quite possible that if the new well had been placed where Dr. Rich wanted it, the elevation would have been enough to provide the proper pressure without adding a tower.

Now back to fluoridation. When the new water was brought in, Dr. Rich requested a fluorine content report. This came from Boise. You will remember that he said that the ideal percentage was between one point and one and one-half. The Rexburg content now is one point twenty-three, almost exactly what experts would have advised. Blair said in the interview Wednesday that it would take about three years for the results to begin showing up but he predicted that the children of the future in Rexburg will have fifty percent less tooth decay than the children of the present and past. The vital time in the person's life to ingest this fluorine bearing water is from birth to six years of age. It will also be beneficial to pregnant mothers and their children.

So far as we can determine, these reports have all been based on scientific fact. Now, let's conclude with some speculation.

I asked Dr. Rich if it were possible that food would contain beneficial fluorine if it were irrigated by water that had fluorine. This is possible, he said, but there have not been enough studies done yet to determine whether or not that would be true.

If it were true, think of the commercial advantage to this favored Rexburg area. Farmers with fluorine water wells could undoubtedly demand and receive higher prices on irrigated vegetables and grain. Many areas advertise themselves as "garden spots." Rexburg could say, "We are the health garden spot of the world."



## VOLCANO - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

When a natural disaster occurs there is immediately a list of procedures produced to let you know what should have been done in the event of another catastrophe. Lists of things to prepare for the disaster are drawn up. then there are the lists of things to do in the process of the disaster depending on how far away you are from the event. All are different as the nature of the disaster is different. When Mount St. Helens erupted there were not guidelines available. The following are some of the new procedures that were drawn up in the years following the eruption. These are designed for a museum but could be followed in many respects in an individual home.

### Volcanic Ash

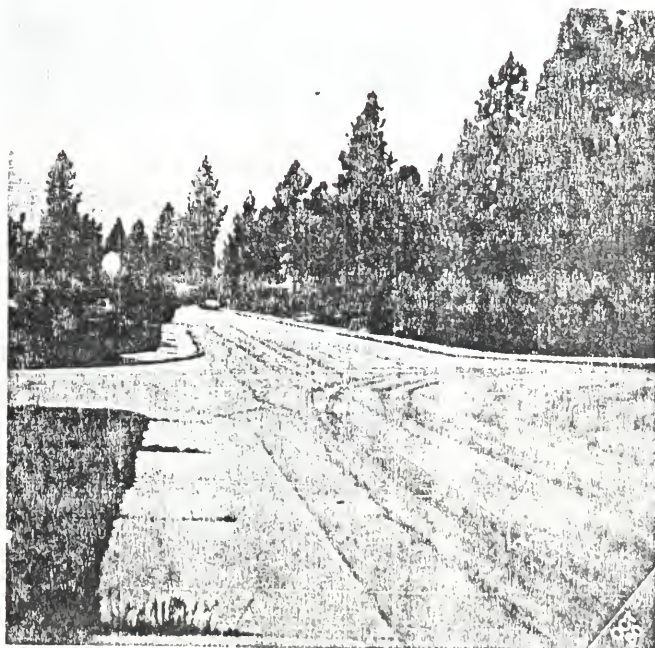
Turn off all climate control systems that depend on external air intake.

Tape seal windows/doors/vents that are possible to seal. In historic houses/buildings, think about developing positive pressure systems without intake of external air.

Place plastic sheets over open exhibits and open storage areas. Plastic bags should cover mannequins and small objects. Plastic covers are needed for drapes, furniture, and etc.

All evacuation procedures and public information procedures need to be in order.

Make sure that lines of authority are clearly drawn.



Mount St. Helens Ash On Road





## Precautions to Minimize Damage

Protection from ash would include plastic covers in storage areas and storage in acid free boxes.

Possible caulking of windows which are not used frequently would reduce ash.

Checks of weak areas, such as leaded glass windows and repairs to them would reduce ash. Know of any potential problems with your roof in advance.

Seal with tape where possible.

Remove the most fragile/susceptible objects to the most tightly sealed areas.

Secure exhibits if you are in an earthquake area. Consider suspension systems.

Use bubble pack linings in storage areas particularly drawers and small cabinets.

Use foam storage for small objects.

Remove most fragile and susceptible objects to the most secure and well supported areas.



Mount St. Helens Ash On Car





Some of the above things are not practical for the average museum. At the Teton Flood Museum we do not have the finances to follow up on most of these recommendation. We are beginning an inspection based on the above list to see where we can make changes. The Snake River Valley is located on several earthquake faults which seem to be our most logical disaster. It is also over a historically active volcanic surface. The lava fields of Idaho are connected to the Yellowstone activity on the north and go all the way into Oregon.

## MUD LAKE HISTORY

The following information was supplied from a manuscript by former Sheriff W. J. N. Adams. He was sheriff of Jefferson County from 1915-20. The information was written up by Hanalorraine Miskin as a part of her history project at Madison High School. Please forgive the errors in spelling on names as the manuscript was old and sometimes hard to read.

From all available records the first man to leave a report of the Mud Lake area was John Colter, who visited this area in early 1808. (This is disputed by modern-day historians who feel that he probably never got this far west. He is known to have been in the Teton Valley and on the east side of the Teton mountains.) He told of the small lake that was surrounded by a large grassy area.

The next reported visit was from Captain Bonneville in 1832, who went to look into the many Indian stories going around about the Great Goblen, lost river, plains. As he and his party came over John Day's defile, Gilmore Divide, onto John Day Creek, Birch Creek, the snow was deep and their meat supply low. (Again this area is disputed at the path Bonneville took. Many feel that he was one valley to the south and that the Little Lost River of today was the John Day River of Bonneville's journal.) They could see the dark herds of buffalo to the east and going into this area they filled their larder with choice steaks. Their horses secured feed from the high bunch grass on the lake bottom.



Osborne Russell  
Eastern Idaho Mountain Man

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Osborne Russell, in his trip in 1835, told of following the Camas Creek to Camas Lake, Mud Lake. He also mentioned the abundance of buffalo around this small desert lake.

Issac I. Stevens, the governor of Washington Territory, was ordered by the U. S. Government to locate a right-of-way for a railroad to Salt Lake City from Montana. (Idaho was part of Washington Territory at this time.) Lt. John Mullan and his Indian guides were assigned to the task. He and his party crossed over the continental divide and proceeded down the Medicine Lodge Creek to where it sinks in the desert. Then they traveled east to Camas Creek. They followed this creek until it emptied into the Camas Lake (Mud Lake.)

In May, 1857, Brigham Young and a group of one hundred and forty-one people and their horses and wagons crossed the Snake River at Fort Hall. They followed up the west bank to Lava Lake (Market Lake.) Then they went west to a desert lake which was Mud Lake. They continued their journey up the Birch Creek Valley and down the Lemhi River to the Mormon settlement at Fort Lemhi.

Adams says that often in the early spring during the 1880's the Mud Lake was dry. They would build rope corrals in the dry lake where they would round up and brand their spring colts. They could always dig down a few feet and find water for their stock and personal use.

When irrigation began in the Egin Bench country to the northwest of Mud lake in 1893, the lake began to rise. All the indications suggested that it was going to grow into a large body of water. In 1894 the Carey Act became law and made it possible to put under irrigation up to one million acres of arid desert land.

Prior to 1900 Mud Lake was an intermittent pond that seldom if ever covered more than a few hundred acres. Beginning the new century the lake increased in size until by 1921 the aggregate area of the lake and a group of smaller lakes had reached seventeen thousand, five hundred twenty acres. There was also another ten thousand acres of swampy land around the lake proper.

In 1901 the act increased the lake area to two million acres. In 1903 the Owsley Canal Land and Irrigation Company surveyed and set up twenty-eight thousand, two hundred acres for cultivation. They were going to take the water from the lake for irrigation purposes.

The first water filing from the lake was made on March 3, 1906. It was for fifteen point two second feet. The next filing was for one point seven second feet and was made by Earnest Baurle on April 22, 1908. Other filings were made by Anderson Brothers Bank, Owsley Canal Company, Los Angeles First National Bank, J. B. and J. A. Potter, Merritt Owsley, and others.

Horace and Ada Jackett came into this area in 1901. They settled due west of Hamer. No one was living on the south side of the lake at that time.



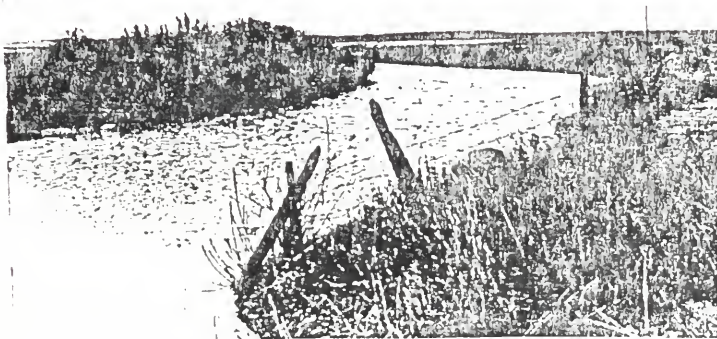


In 1903 Mr. Woodard put a dam in Camas Creek and Mrs. Rebecca Woodard cooked for the crew.

Earnest Baurle and his wife homesteaded on Camas Creek in 1907. The farm had to be vacated at times due to high water. One time it was so high it went three miles south of the present highway. Mrs. Baurle cooked for crews while they were building the Owsley Canal. At this same time William Owsley and his wife and family were the first to settle south of the lake near their present home. This land wasn't under the Carey Act. Soon after this they began work on the canals to water the land that was covered by the Act.

When Tom and Eliza Newman and their children homesteaded in 1908 they located one quarter mile west of the Scody bridge. Their neighbors were the Scody's, Toe Butterfield, Almy Jensen, and Sam Lundholm. The Kruetzer's came about the same year with a large family. These settlers were all on Camas Creek.

The land west of the lake began to be settled also with Tim Abbott filing his homestead in 1909. This was the area where Ben Ternberg lived. Charles Nordstrom came about this time and homesteaded his home place.



Mud Lake Canal

Tack Curd filed his homestead about 1910. He supervised the hiring of twenty mule teams that worked on building canals. The stock watered at his well, one of the first in the area.

In the year of 1912 another interesting development took place. A school was started in the Mud lake area on what is now Staley's farm north of the Speelmon's. The flooding of the lake caused this school to be moved to the site where the old Level School was in 1915. Miss Ethel Hogan was one of the first teachers in that school, teaching in 1913-14.

The Holley water company was formed about 1912 by Dave Sanders, Bill Holland, and a man named Peterson.

Mr. Wylie and Mr. Bernard ran a large number of cattle north of the lake. Their headquarters were where Dennis Breen lived.



Bertha and Frank Dring came to this country about 1912. Merritt Staley and his wife also arrived in the spring of 1912.

Alex Mitchell left Montana and came to Mud Lake in 1913. He and his wife were looking for land to homestead. They settled where Dave Ternberg lived.

When Sandy Mitchell first went to school at the school where Casper's lived, he would often have to walk along the dike as the lake was so high. The county superintendent thought this high water was unsafe and condemned the school.

Harry Gerald homesteaded a section west of the lake near Ternbergs and the Nordstroms. He came in 1913 and built a dugout house and moved his family out the next year. This country was truly a desert at this time.

The snow in those days would sometimes average two feet on the level making traveling in a car or even with a team and wagon very difficult. However, there were not as many cars seen out there in those days. The sand was almost as hard to get through as the snow. In the spring of the year, after the thaw, there was the mud to contend with as there were no graded roads.

The first land to be bought in Mud lake was by Oscar Linger. He bought his land in 1914 but there was no water ready for his land so he didn't move to it until 1915. He had the first water stock issued by the Owsley Canal Company. He grew the first alfalfa hay in the area. Once the Indians, who still traveled through the area, stopped at his farm and nearly scared Mrs. Linger to death.

Park Bell moved onto the place he lived in 1914 when it was homesteaded.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodard moved to Hamer in 1914. They leveled the floor by pouring a pan of water on it. The doors and windows were put in straight by using a fish hook on top with a string and knot tied to it.

The land for the school was bought at ten dollars an acre on the creek near where the Bybee's lived. Mrs. Scody, at the age

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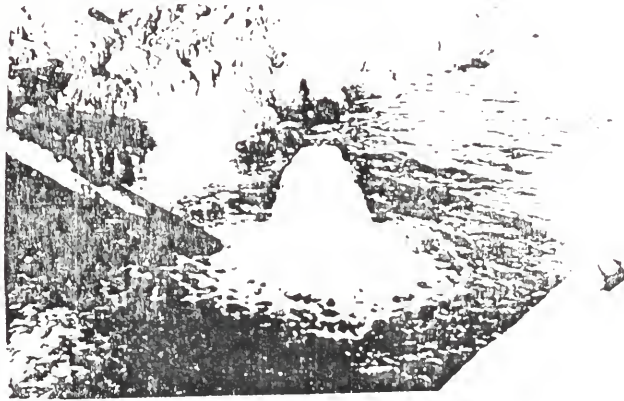
of eighty, was given the honor of naming the school. She called it "Morning Glory School." It was later called West Hamer School. In 1917 Mr. Ralph Raumaker, the only teacher, had forty-five students.

In about 1915 many new people were moving into the area. Among them were Nephi Savage, Pet Kuharski, Feelcheck's, Karuse's, McKeveatt, and Brian.

George Welchman and his wife came here in 1915. Welchman had the first post office at Level, a very appropriate name for the surrounding country. before that, a neighbor would bring the mail whenever convenient and the people would have to pick it up at their house.



By spring the lake had grown until there was twenty thousand acres of land under water. The J. A. Potter and Binnard families and ranches were flooded out. Later that spring a company of Montpelier buyers purchased three thousand acres for thirty-five dollars an acre. They started a project near the old Hable place which was to be the city called Crystal. The lake was renamed Crystal Lake.

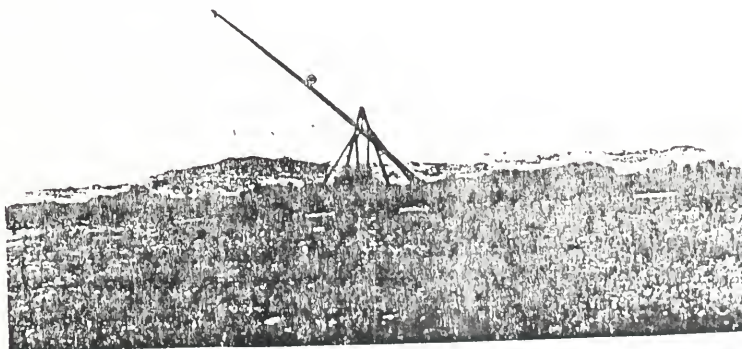


Artesian Well  
Helped Greatly With Water Supplies

Intakes from the lake were built and water was lifted to flow by gravity to irrigate the lands by Mr. Owsley and associates. This was expensive and not too sure. Several crops were lost by the drifting of the sands and the poor water supply.

In 1916 Toe Hartwell moved with his parents and four brothers to Centerville which was located five miles north of Bybee's Bridge. Then in 1918 they moved to the ranch where they lived.

Before hay was being raised in this area it was hauled in by horses from Roberts or Howe and would cost about forty dollars a ton.



Hay Became The Major Farm Operation



# EXPERIENCE

Charles Rickman and his wife came to this location in 1917. He owned one of the first three drilled wells in this area. Many of his neighbors came to his well for water. In the winter when the canal was dry they had to haul water for the cattle, horses, and house use. This caused a great drain on the water and it had to be sold. They charged ten cents a barrel or fifty cents a tank.

In 1917 John Walker came to Mud lake to keep the gas engines on the pumps repaired and to run the dragline. The dragline kept the mud and soil from clogging all the canals.

Tim Speelmon came to the area in 1917 and cleared some of the land his father had homesteaded. He planted some hay. His place was located where the Mud Lake store now stands. Mrs. Speelmon and the family didn't move out to join him until 1923.

About this time the Wood Livestock Company of Spencer owned by Frank Hagenbarth, Highwood, and John Hart moved into the area. they ran about eight to ten thousand head of cattle and several bands of sheep. There were two thousand sheep in each band. They were the principle buyers of the hay.

By 1918 the area was building up fast. Thomas Williams, Ace Bartlett, the Sidley's, the Sykes', the Jemmett's, and Anders Sweden moved into the area.

In July, 1919, electric power was furnished to the pumps and on October 9, 1919, fourteen thousand, six hundred eleven acres of the first Owsley project were thrown open for settlement under the Carey Act entry. The water supply was pronounced steady. The price of water was seventy-five dollars for the project lands and sixty-five dollars for school lands.

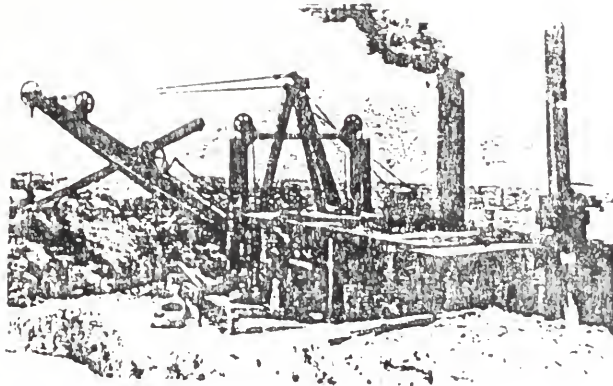
The towns were started with Terreton on the east side and Level on the northwest side of the Lake. Besides the Owsley family, some of the early settlers were J. B. and J. A. Potter, Joe Binnard, Tim Melton, White Feather Smith, and Mr. Scody. Joining them were Paul King, Matkins, Colson, Jeffereys, and the Turmans.

A group of dry farmers from the Palouse Country in Washington had tried to dry farm near Lidy's Hot Springs during World War I, but it was too dry and they all moved out. Many of the homes at Mud Lake were moved from there.

The roads were terrible whenever water got on them and nearly every day a car would get stuck in the sand. In the summer, ditch water was used in every possible way to cut down on the amount that had to be hauled in barrels. In the winter the men cut ice up and stored it for their summer use.

The first Owsley Canal project pumps were located where the old intake is now by the Terreton Store. Soon after this time the second project was completed. Power was furnished to the pumps and they started to life water for irrigation. This second project almost drained the Lake and it was soon abandoned. The great canals stand as a sentinel of this great effort to reclaim the desert.

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### Floating Dredges Built The Big Canals

In 1920 shallow flowing wells were located and the water from them was stored in the Lake. By 1912 there were fifteen thousand acres under irrigation. In 1931 the Camas Creek wells, which flow the year around, were developed by the Owsley Canal Company. Soon after this the Buck Springs wells were developed. Other wells west of the north lake and many more after that were being developed all the time. These wells made an ample supply of water for irrigation. There were at one time at least thirty wells in operation.

Several thousand acres of land was being cultivated by the shallow wells irrigation and were not connected with the lake storage.

The present town of Terreton was named in honor of Mr. G. M. Terry. He started and operated the first store there. Montevue was named by Mrs. Mabel E. Ellis, the first postmaster.

From the 1920's the population increased rapidly. Among those who came were the Copes, Mitchells, Bill Shildberg, Matkins, Osborns, Dwigans, Skinners, and many others.

The Terreton community hall was built by donations, sponsored by the Mud Lake Community Club. It was built in 1928. The growth of this community in the past few years speaks for the country.

There were no church buildings until the Mormon Church was built in 1944 and the Community Church in 1951. Prior to that time the L.D.S. held their services in the Terreton Schoolhouse and the Community Church in the Level Schoolhouse. The Community Church later held meetings in the community hall.

Post offices were established in Terreton in 1922 and at Montevue in 1927.

Mrs. Mary England was one of the first teachers at Montevue Grade School which started in 1918. In this same year there was a need felt for a school in Terreton. A group of interested citizens circulated a petition to get one organized. It was successful and a log cabin school house was constructed on what is now the Glen Yearsley farm. About two



The first part of the experiment was to determine the effect of the concentration of the solution on the rate of reaction. The results showed that the rate of reaction increased with the concentration of the solution. This was expected, as a higher concentration of reactants leads to a higher frequency of collisions, which increases the rate of reaction.

The second part of the experiment was to determine the effect of the temperature on the rate of reaction. The results showed that the rate of reaction increased with the temperature. This was also expected, as a higher temperature leads to a higher frequency of collisions, which increases the rate of reaction.

The third part of the experiment was to determine the effect of the surface area of the reactants on the rate of reaction. The results showed that the rate of reaction increased with the surface area of the reactants. This was also expected, as a larger surface area leads to a higher frequency of collisions, which increases the rate of reaction.

The fourth part of the experiment was to determine the effect of the catalyst on the rate of reaction. The results showed that the rate of reaction increased with the presence of the catalyst. This was also expected, as a catalyst provides an alternative pathway for the reaction, which has a lower activation energy, leading to a higher rate of reaction.



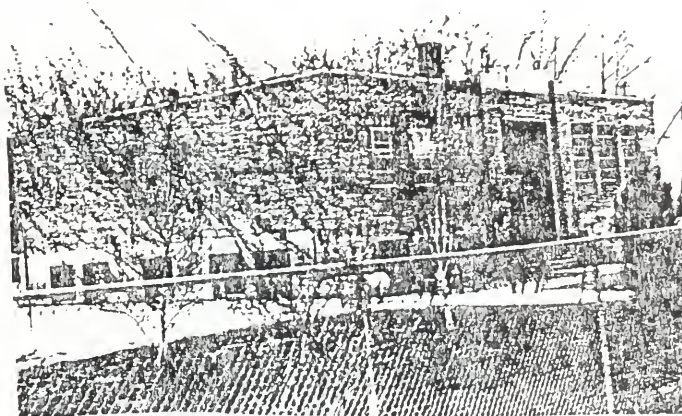
years later the cabin was abandoned and the school was held where the Terreton school house was. In 1923, the Lakeview school was begun making three schools that were being operated in the Mud lake area. They were at Level, Terreton, and Lakeview.

In the year 1932 the Terreton and Lakeview schools combined in Terreton. The buildings used at that time were the house that Von Green lives in. That school contained the four upper grades and the lower four grades met in the building that was Pete Cope's garage.

As there were no high school facilities in Mud Lake the people had to send their children away during the school term. A group of people in disagreement with that condition paid a woman to bring their children to Roberts in a car.

In 1936 Terreton and Roberts arranged a consolidation and the school board hired George C. Black to fix up a truck to be used as a school bus between Terreton and Roberts. The route was from the Mud lake store directly on the highway to Roberts. Because of the early hour of departure and the bad roads the bus didn't leave the highway.

Serving as a school bus in 1937-38 was Bob O'Brian's pickup with a canvas top. He was the driver. The next year Bill Jemmett was hired as a bus driver. In 1940-41 a regular bus was provided for the students.



Terreton School - 1945

In the year 1938 the present Terreton Grade School was built and a high school was built in 1956.

Telephones first came to this area in 1951 when two pay phones were installed by Mountain Telephone Company. In 1954 a Co-op was formed with stockholders each paying fifty dollars for a phone.



The community grew until there were twenty-two places of business, two churches, four canal companies, and two post offices.

This area was known for its mirages in the early days. It has been overrun with jack rabbits about every ten years. They gradually die and then the cycle resumes.

Many interesting stories have been told of the early days. One of those concerns the robbery of a stagecoach. It was held up and when the robbers found the posse on their trail, they buried the loot at the place where Camas Creek enters the Lake. Many men have dug for this treasure. A man even came from Salt lake City with his peep stone and tried to locate it. One time, when John Olsen and Lon Lillie, were digging with a drag line they lifted up a square rock. Legend said the treasure had been covered by the square stone. After the water had cleared the men removed their clothing and dived trying to locate it to no avail. Turman dug for it in the lake in recent years.

The faith and perseverance of these early pioneers have made it possible for others to come and reap the benefit of their endurance and toil. They have left us with a heritage of green fields, tilled acres, and good homes. One can sit by his own fireside and enjoy the fruits of freedom in this great land.

The above information on the history of Mud Lake was obtained from a report handed in by a student. The material came from a manuscript written by Sheriff Adams of Rigby. The date on the manuscript is 1959. There have been many changes in the Mud Lake area in the thirty some years that have passed since the above material was gathered. Thanks to the Sheriff for his perseverance in putting down his memories.

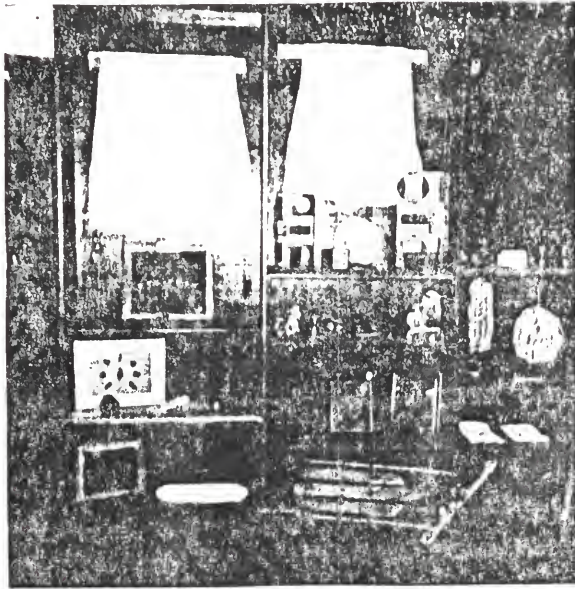


Display In Mud Lake Museum



## MUD LAKE MUSEUM

The Mud Lake community took advantage of some of the grants during the Idaho Centennial to put together a small museum to preserve their heritage. It is in their city building just on the west end of town. They are open by appointment. In 1991 they also created the Mud Lake Historical Society which is headquartered in the building. They are now actively gathering artifacts for display and information regarding their past. Congratulations to those who have persevered in their goals of making the history of the Mud Lake area live and not be lost.



Display At The Mud Lake Museum





## CHAPTER 4

### BIRCH CREEK

The acknowledged expert on the Birch Creek Valley and its history is Pearl M. Oberg. She wrote the history of this valley and published it in 1970 under the title of Between These Mountains. The following stories have been summarized from some of the stories that she presented. She did careful and detailed research to make sure that her facts were presented accurately. The above book has been out of print for many years but there has not been enough interest in reprinting it compared to the cost of the reprinting. We thank her for her diligence and providing to us an understanding of what happened in this valley that opens onto the Upper Snake River Valley.

### Indian Pictographs

There is no question that the trail through the Birch Creek Valley was used by Indians and their hunting parties going from Montana to the rich market of meat on the Snake River Plain. Some of them left pictures on the rocks near where Blue Dome used to be. Blue Dome was a cafe and gas station until it burned down.

An archeological team from Idaho State University under the direction of Dr. Earl Swanson did an excavation at the site of the pictures in 1960-61. It was determined that the Indians who left these particular pictures lived there thousands of years ago. The overhangs



of rocks where the pictures were found were determined to be temporary camps to get out of the weather or to rest before continuing the journey. The charcoal from the fire pits were carbon dated to estimate how long ago they were used. There was also found the toe of a ground sloth in the camp area. The ground sloth has been extinct for ten thousand years.



A Collage of Indian Writings

In 1935 pictures of the writings on the rocks were published in newspapers. Copies were sent to the Smithsonian Institution for translation but they claimed they couldn't read them.

Morris Barrie, a full blooded Navajo Indian, who was living in Twin Falls, Idaho, saw the writings and said that he could read them. He guessed that they were six hundred years old and were done by a band of fourteen Indians. He thought that they were an advanced band and that the writing told of the good hunting around the area.

Mr. Barrie was a graduate of the Haskell Institute. He had been a guide around the West and had worked with geologists. He had read many pictographs as this skill had been taught to him by his grandfather.

The fact that the writings were still on the wall suggested that the Indians had not come back the same way and that the larger band that was supposed to be following did not





come that way. If either of the above two things had happened the writings would have been removed and others put in their place.

These rocks are not easily found. They have been deliberately unidentified because of the vandalism that has happened to them in the past. It is too bad that historical or archeological sites have to be hidden to protect them from desecration. If you know where they are they are a great site to visit. They are on the north side of the highway to Salmon and just a little east of the old site of Blue Dome. There is a little walk involved in getting to them. Check with some of the locals or come into the Teton Flood Museum for more information as to the actual location. Then keep the site safe for others by enjoying it but not adding to the writings.

### Fort Lemhi

It was in 1851 when a Mormon expedition left the Utah area to go north and then westward into Idaho. They went up the Birch Creek, over Gilmore Pass, and followed the Lemhi River downstream until they found what they were looking for, a place to farm and establish a community. They built a fort on the north side of the Lemhi River with high mud walls. Then they started farming the land. One of their goals was to make friends of the Lemhi Indians. The ditch they built to irrigate their farms is still in use.

Brigham Young visited the fort in 1857 and said, "I found the people prosperous, their crops abundant and the country giving promise of great wealth."

In the spring of 1858 the illusion of safety and content disappeared. A group of Bannock and Shoshone Indians attacked the settlers and killed two men while wounding five others. It was thought later that these Indians were encouraged by the United States Army as they were on their way to Utah to participate in the Utah War.

Because of the distance from the fort to any help in Utah it was decided to abandon the project. The settlers pulled out and returned to Utah.

### Salmon Mining

When the Civil War ended in 1865 many of the displaced Southerners and Northerners swarmed to the West. In the West there was the possibility of finding a new life in farming, ranching, or mining. Mining was the most popular dream as hundreds of stories of gold had circulated throughout the East since the California discoveries in 1848. Many of these miners came to Idaho as gold was found here in 1861.

Gold was found on Napias Creek in 1866. Southerners found the gold and called their settlement Leesburg. Here, as with every gold discovery in the West, men swarmed to the new gold field. Salmon City was founded at the merging of the Salmon River and the Lemhi River as it was a natural trail junction.



With supplies and miners now traveling up the Birch Creek to the mining areas of Salmon there was much activity. The high grasses of the valleys provided forage for many cattle and horses. Some were quick to see that money could be made from supplying the mines with food.

### Nez Perce Indians

Part of the retreat of the Nez Perce Indians from Northern Idaho on their way to Canada found them in the Birch Creek Valley. They had been turned south by soldiers from Montana and had entered Idaho in an effort to run to the east around the army and then make a dash to the north. Their foray into Idaho placed them right on the same road as the freighters making their way to the gold camps in Salmon.

It was the summer of 1877 when the Indians and several freight wagons met each other on the side of Birch Creek. The Indians were just in the process of recovering from a battle in the Big Hole Valley of Montana and were not in a very good mood. They took what they wanted from the wagons, set fire to the rest, and killed some of the freighters.

The Indians proceeded across the north end of the desert and engaged in another battle at Kilgore. They eventually got within a few miles of the Canadian border before they were captured.

### Nicholia

From the time of the first mining strike in the Spring Mountain district of the Birch Creek in 1881 people began moving into the valley in greater numbers. There were the miners, freighters, timber men and many other camp followers. As the population increased a few hotels and boarding houses were built in the canyons where the mines were.

The town of Nicholia was named after the new manager of the Viola mine, Ralph Nichols. It was located at the mouth of Smelter Canyon and at the foot of the mountain where the mine was located. Most of the buildings still standing were constructed in 1925 when the mine had second life. There are still a few cabins scattered around the forest to testify of the existence of a large population.

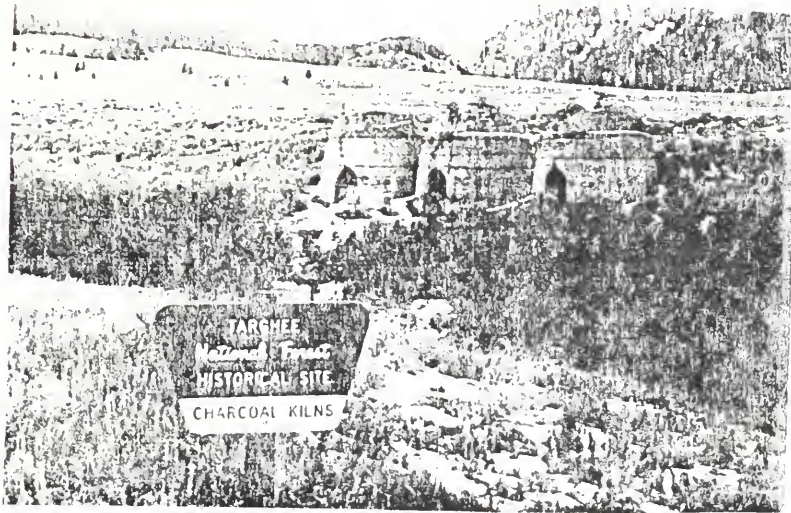
In 1882 the town of Nicholia claimed at least three hundred and eighty-five men. There were four grocery stores, two barber shops, one dry goods store, one shoe store, one drug store, one photograph gallery, ten saloons, two livery stables, three blacksmith shops, and various other support businesses.

There were long lines of freight wagons bringing supplies in from the east and the railroad. At its peak, Nicholia had a school with forty-eight desks. There was only one teacher at a time and no doubt she earned her keep.



As a rule the mining season only lasted about six months in the mountain country. When the men could no longer work in the mines, they turned to trapping and built themselves cabins in the canyons and wilds.

The playing out of the mines was the cause for the towns demise. As the work dropped so the workers left for more promising mines.



Charcoal Kilns

The charcoal kilns were begun in 1883 and more were added until there were sixteen of them standing in a row. From a distance they appeared to look like giant beehives. They are located across the Birch Creek Valley about ten miles from Nicholia. The reason for this location was the forest to be found on the north slopes of the canyon. There was deemed to be enough wood close to where the kilns were built to keep them supplied with fuel for many years.

They were made of brick of light clay and lime. The proper combination made a tough but light brick. The bricks for these kilns were formed on the ground. It is estimated that each kiln cost several thousand dollars.





There were some other  
things to be done. The  
work was not done.

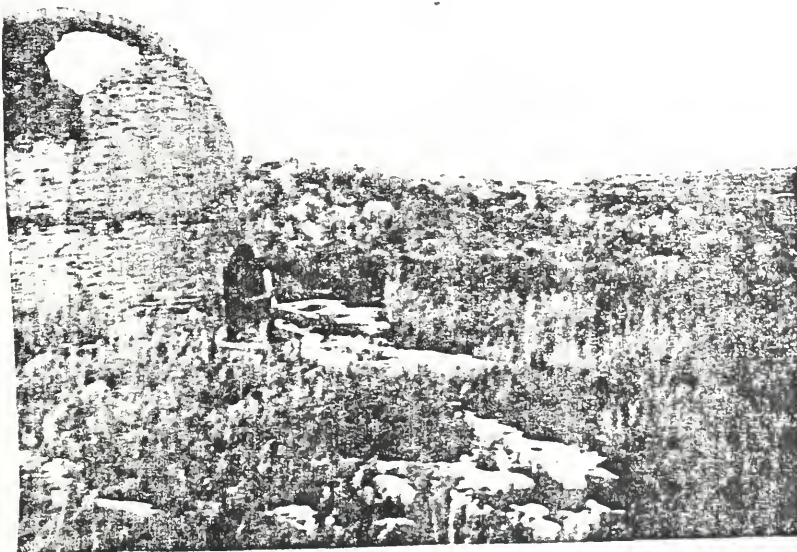
## Targhee Forest Administers Charcoal Kilns

They were approximately twenty feet in diameter and the same in height. The walls were a foot or more thick and bound with a number of heavy steel cables. The walls were plastered and rested on a thick stone and brick foundation. There was a door on ground level to enable the workers to place the wood to be converted to charcoal in the kiln for cooking. There were other openings about three feet up to allow the burn to be sampled during the cooking process. These holes were sealed with clay until needed and then sealed again. There was another door near the top to enable the workers to place more fuel to the top of the pile. It would have been hard to fill the kiln from the bottom up.

The process of loading the kiln was simple and followed carefully to make sure the charcoal would be useable. Dry material was laid across the floor as a starter for the fire. Then green timber was placed in a circle around the floor. The timber had to be green to keep it from being consumed by the fire. The logs were four feet in length. They piled the timber in this manner until they could no longer reach it. Then they used the upper door to continue the pile reaching upward. When it was loaded all the holes were filled to ensure a smoldering flame and the dry material was set afire.

The proper amount of oxygen was needed to keep the fire going but not allow it to get too hot to consume the whole pile.

There had been stories of a kiln blowing its top because it was closed too soon or too tight. By watching the burn through the small holes they could regulate the fire to the proper heat and size.



Kilns Are Falling Into Disrepair

# THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

The history of the college is a story of growth and development. It began in 1862 when the first building was erected on the site of the present campus. The college was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was the first of its kind in the South. The first president of the college was Dr. J. M. Smith, who served from 1862 to 1868. During his tenure, the college grew from a small school to a four-year institution. The first building was a simple wooden structure, but it was the beginning of a long and successful history.

The college has since grown to become one of the largest and most respected institutions in the South. It has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence and service to the community. The college has a rich history of producing graduates who have gone on to make significant contributions to their fields. The college's commitment to education and service is a source of pride for all who are associated with it.

The college's history is a testament to the power of education and the dedication of its faculty and students. It is a story of perseverance and achievement, and it is a story that continues to inspire and motivate. The college's history is a source of pride and a source of strength, and it is a story that will continue to be written for many years to come.



The capacity of the average brick kiln was estimated at from forty to fifty cord of charcoal. The filling of the kiln took about a day and then it smoldered for several days. Then it had to cool before the kiln could be opened. It was figured that the sixteen kilns could produce close to eight hundred cord of charcoal each week of the operation.

There were open pit kilns being operated throughout the valley. They were not as efficient as they sometimes caved in. Open kilns were made by placing the wood in a trench and then covering it with dirt. If the dirt fell in the fire was put out and the charcoal lost.

The smelting process preferred the charcoal formed in the regular kilns as it kept a steady heat. For some reason the blacksmiths preferred the product of the open kilns.

It took hundreds of woodsmen to keep the kilns supplied with wood over the years. They were paid from fifty cents to one dollar and fifty cents per day. They hauled up to one hundred and fifty thousand cords of wood for the kilns. There was much more wood used in a support function.

The kilns operated from 1882 to 1889. There is still several piles of unused wood that have deteriorated in the weather of over one hundred years. The Targhee National Forest Service now maintains the area as a historical site.

### Birch Creek Fish

One of the most interesting stories that Mrs. Oberg placed in her book was how the fish were introduced into the Birch Creek. I have reproduced this article in its entirety.

"Thomas Kane, an uncle of Mrs. Elizabeth Reed of Salmon, told her about how the fish were started in Birch Creek. Because the stream started in the springs and snow runoff and ended in the sinks, there were no fish.

"Marmaduke Hewitson was doing blacksmithing for the Viola Mining Company at the time. He and one of the miners thought that fish could be transported from Clear Creek to Birch Creek. They sewed two long wool sacks together, fastened one end closed and wired the other open. Next they built a sort of runway or chute of rocks in Clear Creek. At the end of the runway they placed the open end of the sacks, which, being submerged, the running water kept open.

"Going upstream, they used handfuls of brush to drive the fish down where many of them went into the long sack. The fish were taken in two barrels of water to Birch Creek and turned loose. Two barrels were used so the water could circulate and keep the fish alive.

"This was in 1885 while Nicholia was still operating."

The Idaho State Fish and Game now considers the Birch Creek a prime stream for family fishing. They plant hundreds of fish in the creek at various times and places



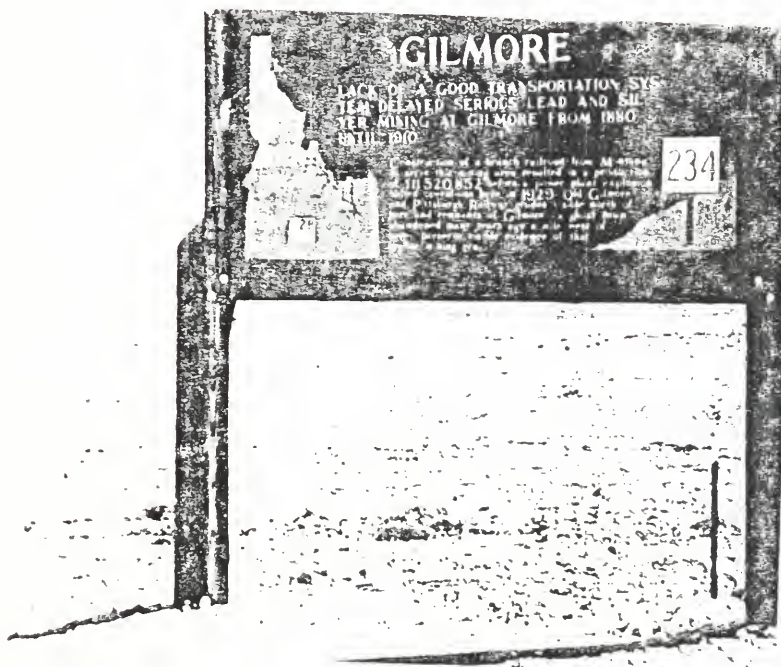


throughout the fishing season. The proximity of the creek to the highway makes it a very popular fishing stream.

### Gilmore and Hahn

One of the most popular historical sites in Eastern Idaho is Gilmore, Idaho. Located just off Highway 28 the town was abandoned during World War II. There are still many buildings standing in the town and it makes for an interesting visit.

Gilmore is just west of the summit that separates Birch Creek Valley and the Lemhi River Valley. Hahn is located about seven miles southeast of Gilmore. A smelter was built in Hahn in 1907 but it lasted only a week as the ore ran out. The town was big enough to have a school but did not last long.



Gilmore was a mining town. It was originally called Horseshoe Gulch when it started up in the 1880's. The present townsite was developed in 1910 moving most of the residents off the hillside and out onto the slope.

During the summer water for the town was piped down from the creeks in the mountains. In the winter they had to haul the water in barrels from Clear Creek or use melted snow. A barrel in the corner of a kitchen could be replenished with snow and provide a constant source of water.



A good body of ore was found in 1903 and the Gilmore Mining Company began operations. They employed two hundred men and the mine produced around a million dollars worth of ore. There was a company store in this camp.

The ore was hauled to the smelter by horse and wagon. It was a big enough business to finally entice the railroad to build into the area. They came in from Montana to the north and came up the Lemhi Valley side in 1911.

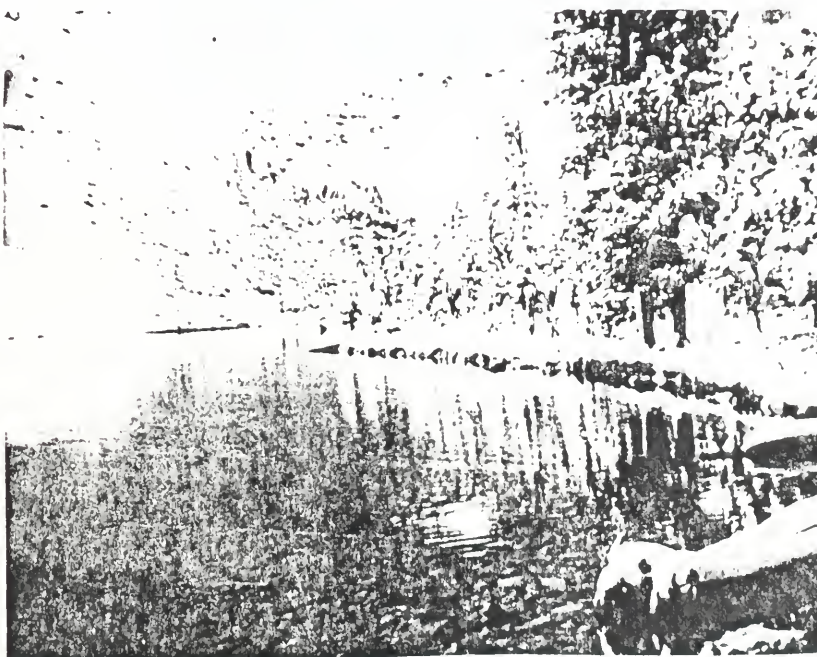
In 1911 a bank was opened in the town. It was known as the Lemhi Valley Bank. It was later moved to Leadore and then closed in 1913. Other business included a drugstore, a blacksmith, a butcher shop, a hotel, and several saloons.

The name of Gilmer was sent to the Post office as the name of the town in honor of one of the owners of the early day stage line, but the Washington Bureaucracy couldn't read the spelling and it came back as Gilmore.

The mines produced mostly lead but had by-products of silver and nickel. It is estimated that in 1914 there were between six and seven hundred people living there.

The old cemetery contains about one hundred graves but only two headstones. It is located in a thick grove of brush on the south side of the road about half a mile up the canyon from Rag Town.

The decline of Gilmore is tied to the Great Depression. Many mines closed at this time. The railroad kept running until 1940 and then the rails were torn up to assist the war effort. In 1946 there were only twenty-five residents and today there is only a caretaker left. This could change if more ore was found in any of the surrounding hills.



Meadow Lake



The road through Gilmore continues to the top of the mountains to Meadow Lake. This is a popular high country lake that has been developed for summer camping and recreation. It is planted with rainbow trout each year by the Idaho Fish and Game.

## HORTENSE HANSON



Lorenzo and Hortense Hanson, 1975

Without a doubt the people of the Upper Snake River Valley owe a debt of gratitude to Hortense Hanson. She has gathered material for years and preserved it in manuscript and pictures. She has provided material for many books and researchers. She has not only gathered and preserved the history but she is quite free in allowing others to use it. If given an idea of a subject for research, she can remember if there is anything regarding it in her vast amount of work. Much of her collection is at the library in Shelley and at the library at the Teton Flood Museum. The following story is an example of what she has in her vast collection.

### Livery Stable

In the early 1900's every town or hamlet had it's own livery stable. Before cars came to the Upper Snake River, livery stables were a necessity to take care of the horses. They also would rent horses and buggies. Shelley, Idaho had two.





Hortense knew that the one owned by John F. Shelley had burned. The other one was owned by Smith Johnson. It had been bought and moved to the Ephriam and Lottie Bagley Hanks property. One of their daughters was named Lela. The family had come to Shelley from Charleston, Utah in 1903.

When Lela grew up she married LaVon Morris and they lived on the original homestead. The livery stable was on their farm. The following is what Lela told Mrs. Hanson in an interview.

"What I remember best are the gab-fests, the pot bellied stove, and the spittoon. Many times Father took me to the Johnson livery stable to join in these gab fests. With the demise of the livery stables in 1920 there was no more use for the horse and carriage. The stable was bought by my father and my brother, Dell. It was divided with Dell moving the one half to his place and the other half stayed here.



Johnson Livery Stable

"Many people have told us not to destroy a single part of the unique lumber, when we decided to tear it down. The only part I wanted to keep was the board that David carved my name on when he was nine years old. We had given him a pocket knife for his birthday and he had carved his name along side mine and the date.

"I worried about parting with this old landmark and that night after we had made the final decision all my past experiences kept running through my mind. Finally I arose, went to my typewriter and started typing."



Mrs. Hanson then states that Lela told a beautiful story of the livery stable and the experiences that happened in one. When asked if she could write it down and share it, Lela said no. She felt that there were too many mistakes in her typing. After being assured that the spelling would be corrected she consented. The following story is what Lela typed telling of the live of a livery stable from the stables point of view.

### The Old Livery Stable

By

Lela Hanks Morris

I am an old livery stable looking so sad and depleted. In my old heart lies many a tale I could tell with a smile and some mirth.

On a bright sunny day I was told  
I would be taken from the freight car in Shelley  
To shelter the stock from the cold.

I was going to be fashioned into a wonderful place where people could come in and visit and the dream of my life would be complete.

It was Smithy Johnson who was first to bring horses to feel the warmth of my shelter. Sweet smelling hay and a bucket of oats to many a dappled grey. Fresh curried horses were hired out and many tired riders would return and say,

"This has been a wonderful day."

As the years went by my faith grew. The soft spoken and the rough came in on cold winter days-not for the horses inside but just for the warmth from the old stove.

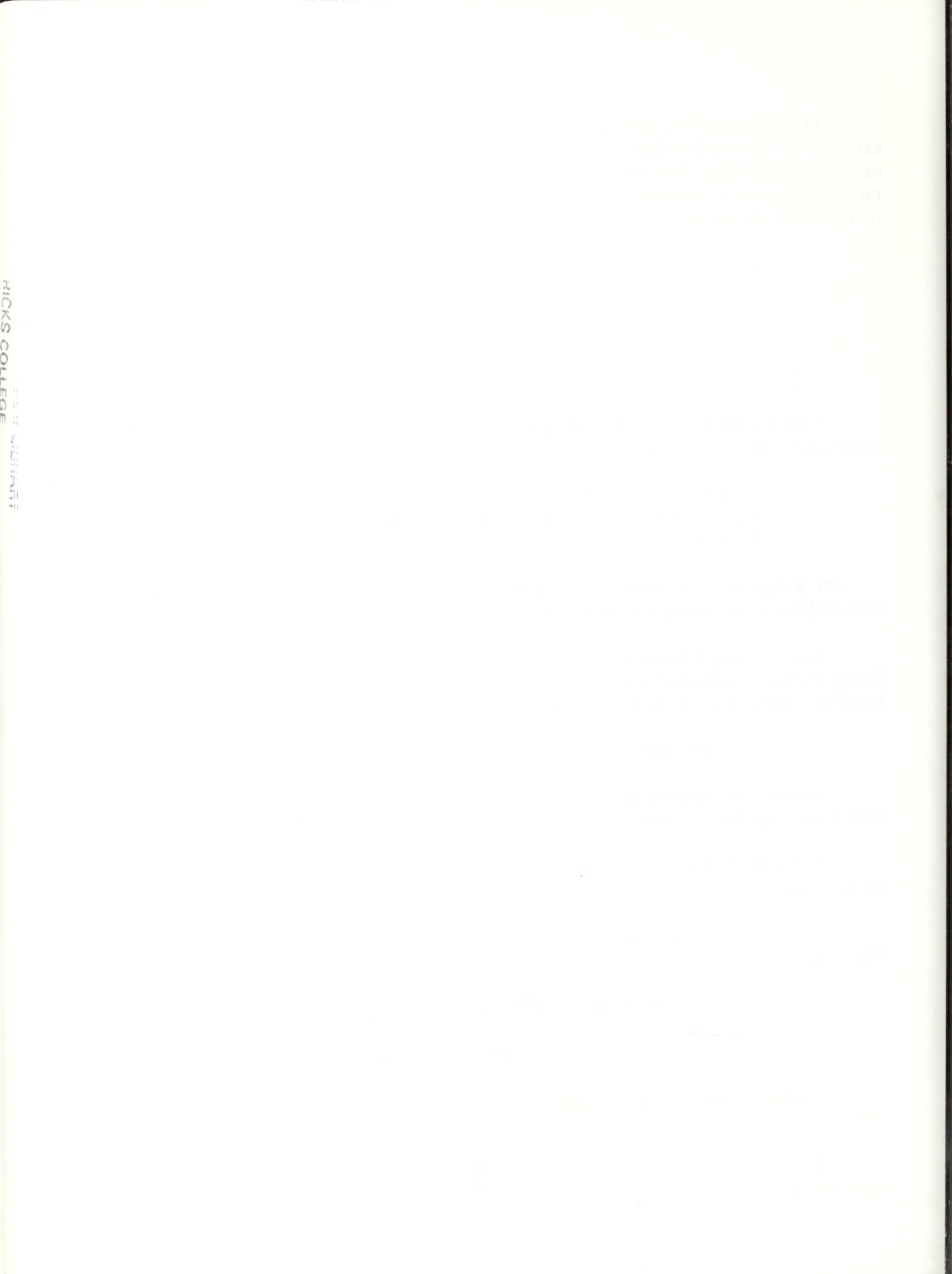
Good hearty laughs were heard all the day, like the time Arthur Hanks came to town on the train and wanted to rent a horse for the day.

Now this man was a dude but the top-silk hat and the long-tail coat made him look like a cad.

The worst horse was brought out  
Picked with a smile well hid  
And the fun which was to come and never did!

I watched and saw that the only one having fun was the man in the saddle with the long-tailed coat.

The rider spun on and on and the horse spun too, and bucked and bucked. I held my side and laughed with delight. As Hanks rode the horse with all of his might, He turned





around and tipped his head saying, "This horse is too fat."

One day, what people call progress came along. Out on the road there went whizzing by a darned old car. I knew that soon I would be gone and my happiness too. Who would want an old thing like me. What could I do?

Two nice eyes looked me through,  
Said: "Six hundred will have to do."  
And I was sold and cut in two.

I was moved to a place just a little ways away where I could still see the little town. I began a new life and knew what it meant to be filled with sweet smelling hay where children could come and play and the pigeons could build their nests and coo. I was happy and had new hopes.

It has been years since I was moved here. I am old but my heart is young. So many good things have happened, like the warmth of the stove, the talk of good people, and the hum of the birds. The winter months were cold and the summer ones warm. I will look at the stars and the moon and always feel needed.

Hortense Hanson says, "The amazing thing about this story is, that several years ago Lela lost her eyesight. Most of the beauty she sees in the world today is through the windows of her mind. This story was written in 1972."

around and looking for a way to get out.

One day when people call me, I tell them I am not  
by a demand and that I have a lot of work to do. I want  
want an end to the suffering of the people.

The more I think about it, the more I

think the more I will have to do.

And I will have to do it.

I am not a man of words. I am a man of  
I have a new idea and I want to see it  
that is a different kind of a man. I want  
and that new power.

It is a new kind of a man. I want to see  
Good things happen. I want to see the  
in the world. I want to see the people  
the stars. I want to see the people.

I am not a man of words. I am a man of  
I want to see the people. I want to see  
with me. I want to see the people.

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These books can only be purchased at the Teton Flood Museum in Rexburg or through the mail at P. O. Box 244, Rexburg, Idaho 83440. The cost is only \$10 plus \$1.50 for postage.







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